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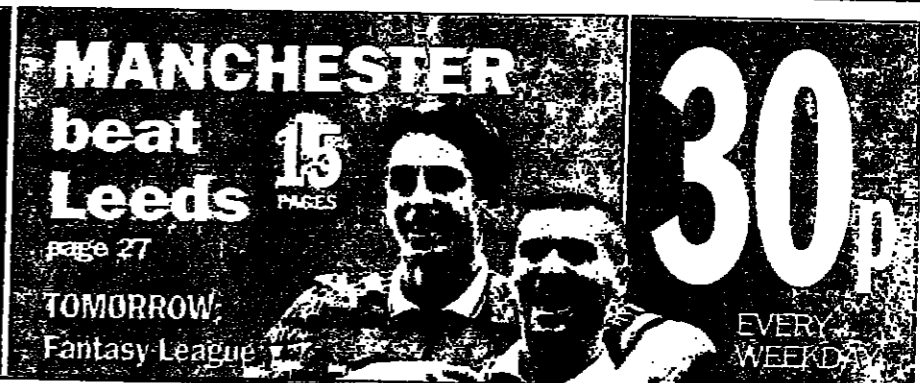
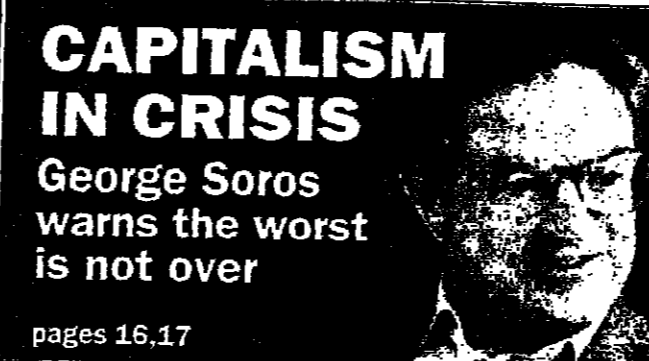
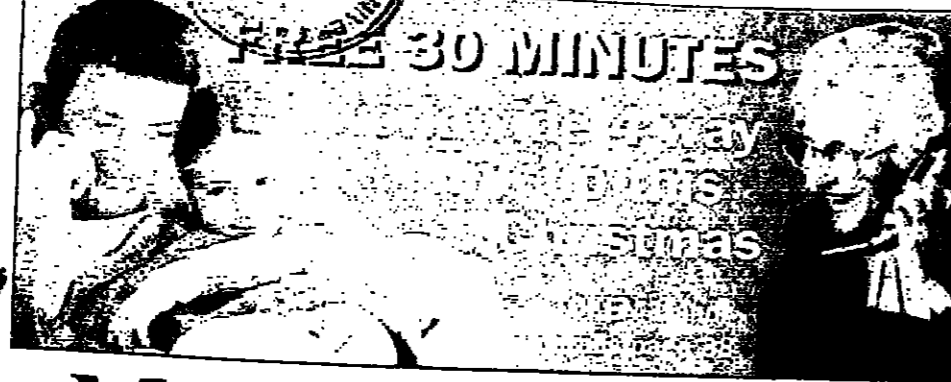
THE TIMES



No. 66,372

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 1998

http://www.the-times.co.uk



Mandelson's friend hits back at Rio 'smear campaign'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE director of the British Council in Rio de Janeiro last night hit out at what he called the "smears and innuendo" directed at Peter Mandelson and himself over the Trade Secretary's visit to the city last July.

Martin Dowle, a former BBC journalist who was at the centre of allegations in the fortnightly magazine *Punch* which accused him of taking Mr Mandelson on a tour of gay haunts and restaurants on his two-day trip to Rio, broke his silence to launch a fierce attack on William Hague and the Conserva-

tives for "fueling the smears".

Mr Dowle, who was a political correspondent at Westminster for more than ten years, issued a detailed account of both his and Mr Mandelson's movements from his arrival in Rio on the evening of July 18 to his departure on Monday July 20. It proved, he said, that the allegations against Mr Mandelson were completely untrue. "There were no nightclubs, no gay bars," he said.

His surprise move, after two weeks in which both he and Mr Mandelson have declined to comment publicly for fear of giving

greater currency to allegations that had been confined to *Punch*, came after consultations with the minister, it is understood.

He decided to set the record straight after newspapers used Mr Hague's description of Mr Mandelson as "Lord Mandelson of Rio" in the Commons last Tuesday to make references to the *Punch* article about Mr Mandelson's trip to Brazil.

His move also coincided with the publication in the Mail on Sunday yesterday of an investigation about the trip which concluded that the *Punch* account could not be substantiated.

A source close to the Trade Secretary said: "Peter feels that he has been wronged by these allegations. Now that they have appeared more widely he needs to be exonerated."

Mr Dowle, speaking to *The Times* from Rio, confirmed that Mr Mandelson, an old friend from Westminster days, had stayed with him and his friend Fabricio da Silva at his three bedroom house in Ipanema. "There was no secret about that. I would do the same for friends in other political parties if they were passing through."

Mr Mandelson had arrived after

an 11 hour flight from London on the evening of Saturday July 18. Mr Dowle and the Consul-General Roger Nuttall met him at the airport.

They went back to Mr Dowle's house, had a glass of wine, and then went to look at part of the city centre that had been restored, a baroque church where a wedding was taking place and the site in the city where eight street children had been murdered. "We were back at the house by 10.30 pm. Peter who had been up since 4 in the morning went to bed. You would have had to be superhuman to go out nightclub-

bing after his schedule."

Turning to the Sunday, Mr Dowle said that after a late breakfast Mr Mandelson, himself and Fabricio went to see the Corca Vado statue of Christ and then visited Santa Teresa, the artists' area of Rio. "We went to a museum and had lunch in a small restaurant. We came back about 5 to get ready for a reception that was being hosted by Rubens Barbosa, the Brazilian ambassador in London. We then went to a dinner attended by industrialists, ministers and senators which went on until 1 in the morning. After it we went back to

my home. The next morning Peter flew off to Brasilia."

Mr Dowle said that he had decided like Mr Mandelson against formally denying the story when it appeared because to have done so would have "given it legs".

"It was so lurid and we did not believe anyone would believe it at all. The newspapers did not follow it. It was a difficult decision but it was a case of 'you are damned if you do, you are damned if you don't'."

Now that the allegations had been given wider circulation he had

Continued on Page 2, col 5

Whitehall attack on inefficiency

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A WHITEHALL attack on bureaucracy, absenteeism and fraud is to add hundreds of millions of pounds to spending on front-line services under government plans to be unveiled before Christmas.

All Cabinet ministers and heads of key Whitehall agencies have agreed "efficiency targets" with the Treasury, including measures to cut "unauthorised absences" by civil servants by 20 per cent over two years, huge reductions in the costs of government buying, and an onslaught on fraud, notably benefit claims.

But under an unprecedented deal

degraded between Gordon Brown and Tony Blair the savings will be added to the increases in spending for departments for the next three years announced by the Chancellor in July.

The moves are designed to bring Mr Blair's reform crusade into the heart of Whitehall by ending outdated practices. By announcing the targets in advance, ministers will be able to prevent the Treasury "pocketing" the savings if they are achieved, ministers say.

The new targets will be part of some 25 "public services agreements" which Stephen Byers, the Treasury Chief Secretary, is negotiating with Cabinet ministers and which will be outlined in a White Paper shortly.

Mr Byers has told the departments to look at sick leave, fraud and procurement as three areas for economies.

As part of the negotiations Customs and Excise has already told the Government it intends to double to £160 million a year the revenue it gains from detecting smuggled alcohol and cigarettes.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has agreed a 7 per cent efficiency saving in the running of the BBC World Service over the next three years — achieved through cutting bureaucracy — enabling it to spend an extra £25 million on improvements to its services.

Mr Byers is insisting that big savings come from government departments by changing their cumbersome procedures for buying equipment — replacing the "paper chase" — which once meant that it was costing one department £60 to order a lightbulb — with electronic purchasing.

The Treasury is asking departments to follow the example of the Northern Ireland Office which, through introducing electronic methods, has cut its procurement costs per item from £30 to 30p.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is undertaking to find efficiency savings of 2 per cent in the police and fire services and 4 per cent in the probation service.

The public services agreements are the other side of the cash handouts to departments announced by Mr Brown last July. They will show how each department is trying to modernise its practices in return for the new money, particularly the extra £40 billion for health and education.

The tougher line on unauthorised absences will be controversial in Whitehall. Recent figures show that civil servants in more than half the mainstream departments are off sick for 10 to 14 days a year.



"I can't remember where I put our efficiency target"



Ellen MacArthur, the first woman to finish the Route de Rhum Atlantic race, off Guadeloupe. Page 39

Specialist schools way out in front

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

THE specialist schools which ministers hope to use as a model to modernise state education will leave other comprehensive schools trailing in their wake when this year's examination league tables are published tomorrow, according to the schools' breakdown of results.

Two-thirds of GCSE candidates at the 15 original City Technology Colleges managed at least five high-grade passes, the trust which administers the schools has announced.

The 44 colleges in the next wave of schools to be admitted to the specialist network have already reached the Government's national target of 50 per cent.

With this year's national average for all schools standing at 46.3 per cent and comprehensives expected to average 39 per cent, the technology colleges' results will harden ministers' resolve for more specialisation. They are aiming for 500 specialist schools by 2001.

The results come as David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, prepares to publish a Green Paper on the teaching profession,

which will open up a new front in the Government's standardisation crusade. Among its proposals will be a fast-track promotion scheme designed to attract the brightest graduates into teaching.

After a rigorous selection process graduates with an aptitude for teaching would be offered accelerated promotion, possibly climbing the pay scale within four or five years, and then qualifying for the new grade of "advanced skills

IN TUESDAY'S TIMES

GCSE and A-level results for all English secondary schools

teacher" — with salaries up to £40,000 — or taking leadership positions in schools.

Other proposals will include a tougher system of appraisal. Classroom teachers of proven high quality will be able to break through the existing pay ceiling into a new grade, where higher rates of pay will be available, in return for annual checks on performance.

Fay Weldon reveals role in Cold War against Poland

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor

FAY WELDON, the novelist and feminist, has revealed that she worked for a secret unit linked to MI6 in the 1950s and that she was told "not to look" when members of the Secret Intelligence Service walked by her office.

Although she has acknowledged in the past that she had a brief spell on the Polish desk in the Foreign Office when she left St Andrew's University, it has now emerged that she worked for the clandestine Information Research Department (IRD), financed by MI6.

"I suppose I'm still covered by the Official Secrets Act, but I don't think anyone will take that seriously as far as my role was concerned," she told *The Times* yesterday.

In any case, the things she remembers with greatest clarity are not the secrets buried in the files in the office cupboard but the fact that she and her fellow workers in IRD kept their hats and umbrellas in the same cupboard. There were also files in the bathroom in



Weldon: went from writing fiction to writing fiction

Herzog visit to Britain

Roman Herzog, the German President, arrives in Britain tomorrow. In an interview with *The Times* he takes a philosophical line on the British media's view of his country.

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Show goes on again

The Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester reopens tonight for its first performance since an IRA bomb devastated the city centre two and a half years ago.

Page 6

Civil servants take thought

Edward de Bono is to give civil servants at the Department of Education and Employment lessons in thinking to develop ideas.

Page 9

Bid to stop Pinochet extradition

CHILE'S Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza is flying to Spain today in his continuing bid to stop the extradition of General Pinochet.

Page 83

Show goes on again

He will try to persuade the Spanish authorities to drop their extradition request to make a face-saving deal possible.

Civil servants take thought

Both Britain and Chile yesterday denied reports in Sunday newspapers that they had struck a deal to release General Augusto Pinochet from custody in exchange for a guarantee that he would face trial in Chile.

A Government spokesman said: "There is no deal. The position is unchanged from last week. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary will make the decision in a quasi-judicial capacity."

"It is about extradition to Spain and he has always made clear it is not a political decision."

Deal denied, page 12

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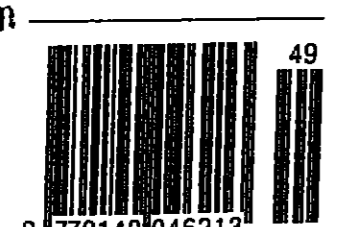
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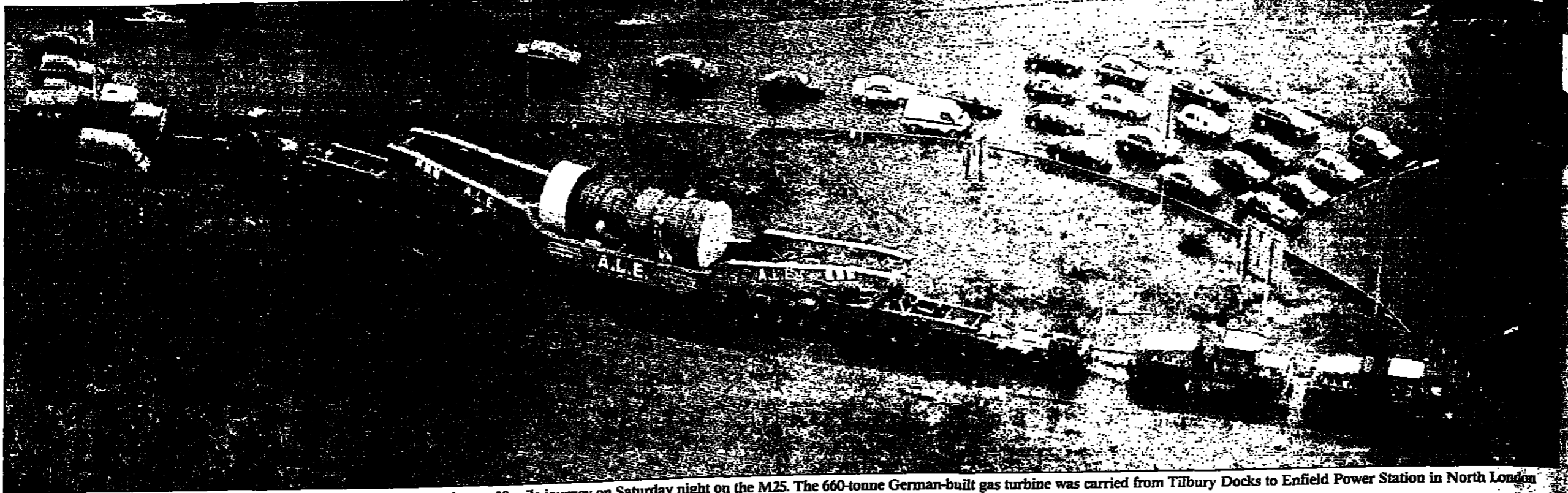
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The largest load to travel on a British motorway crept along at 4mph on a 30-mile journey on Saturday night on the M25. The 660-tonne German-built gas turbine was carried from Tilbury Docks to Enfield Power Station in North London.

Mandelson to give up his veto on takeovers

PETER MANDELSON is to take the first steps towards removing the Government's role as final arbiter in controversial business takeovers. The Trade Secretary is to begin a consultation process in the new year that could see ministers denied a say in either approving or vetoing contentious mergers. It would mean that, in a case such as BSKyB's bid for Manchester United, the decision would be left entirely to the regulatory authorities without any role for government. Mr Mandelson has already referred BSKyB's £623 million bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and, under current rules, will have the final say on whether to approve or reject its recommendation. Mr Mandelson will announce a Green Paper in January to examine the whole issue of merger policy and the role played by the Secretary of State. He has made clear to DTI officials that his instincts are to remove government from the process entirely. Since he took over the job in July, he

Industry Secretary takes first steps to give up Government's role as final arbiter, writes Roland Watson

has received two substantial papers on the subject which have made him draw back from a hurried decision. Officials have also warned him that there are certain circumstances when the public would expect the Government to step in and rule on a proposed deal where there were public interest issues at stake which went beyond the purely commercial. However, Mr Mandelson is to press ahead with a consultation document which will be designed to open up the whole process of approval of mergers that would reshape the marketplace. Changes to merger policy were ruled out by Mr Mandelson's predecessor, Margaret Beckett. But the minister said he wanted to examine whether the current procedure was the best way of conducting business policy. The role given to

Government in deciding mergers is far greater in Britain than most other countries. Mr Mandelson said the green paper would analyse merger policy, its history and options for its reform. He said: "I don't want to rule anything out. I want to put everything under the microscope. I want to see if the way we do things in Britain is the best we can do." Mr Mandelson insists that his instinctive approach preceded the BSKyB bid for Manchester United, rather than being prompted by an individual case. But the bid by BSKyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, has proved uncomfortable for the minister. Mr Mandelson required legal clearance from DTI lawyers before he could address the issue because of his personal friendship with Mr Muro-

ch's daughter, Elisabeth, managing director of BSKyB network division, and the fact that BSKyB is one of the sponsors of the Millennium Dome, for which he has ministerial responsibility. The issue has also shadowed much of his ministerial life since it surfaced in September, with opponents prepared to accuse him of being swayed by political rather than business considerations. Mr Mandelson said that when he arrived at the department, he believed that the argument in favour of surrendering the Government's role was straightforward. After five months in the job, he conceded: "I thought it would be a rather more clear cut issue. It isn't. This is a very complicated area." Members of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday paid a visit to Old Trafford, home of Manchester United, on a "routine site visit". The party bought tickets for the afternoon match and watched the home side beat Leeds United 3-2.

Official in Rio attacks 'smears'

Continued from Page 1 decided to say something. "It is a smear. It is disgraceful that William Hague should take innuendo, lies and smears as part of a process of the destruction of the lives of professional people." The story was provided to *Punch* by Wensley Clarkson, a former Fleet Street journalist, who had been in Rio researching a book on Ronaldo, the Brazilian football star. The *Mail on Sunday* alleged that Denis Wright, an old contact of Mr Clarkson, had come up with the allegations about the trip. Mr Dowle confirmed that Mr Wright had worked for him for a short time as a "fixer" when he [Dowle] was the BBC's correspondent in Rio but that he had dispensed with his services. The editor of *Punch* magazine last night stood "one hundred per cent" behind his story on Peter Mandelson and challenged those involved to sue if they were confident he could not prove his claims. James Steen said not only did he have every confidence in the author of the report, Wensley Clarkson, a former Fleet Street journalist, but he had also corroborated the story separately from London. Further allegations about Mr Mandelson's sexuality and his visit to Rio de Janeiro will be made in this week's edition of *Punch*.

Robinson faces Tory calls for new inquiry

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the Paymaster General, came under renewed pressure to resign yesterday after the Tories called for a second investigation into his business dealings with Robert Maxwell, the disgraced media tycoon. The Conservatives want the Government to appoint inspectors to investigate a deal carried out by Mr Robinson in 1990 when he was chairman of Hollis Industries, a company owned by Maxwell. Six months before Hollis Industries collapsed in 1991, Mr Robinson arranged the sale of two of its subsidiary companies, Lock International and PSS Group. Both were bought by another Maxwell company, Headington Holdings, for £2.972 million. Hours later they were purchased by Central & Sheerwood, also owned by Maxwell, for £4.053 million. After the transaction Mr Robinson emerged as the biggest single shareholder in Central & Sheerwood.



Robinson: his Maxwell links are under scrutiny

The question now being asked is: Why was Headington Holdings involved in the sale of the companies and why were the firms apparently sold for more than a £1 million less than their real value? Central & Sheerwood was later renamed TransTec. Mr Robinson was a director, and the company later became the foundation of his immense business fortune. In a letter to Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, David Heathcoat-Amory, a Tory Treasury spokesman, called on the Government to appoint inspectors to examine Mr Robinson's activities under the Companies Act. "There appears to have been no legitimate reason for the involvement of Headington Holdings, save to enable it to strip £1,153,000 for the benefit of Robert Maxwell," he said. "The disclosures follow Mr Robinson's apology to the House of Commons for failing to register business interests. He was earlier he was rebuked by the Commons Standards Committee for failure to declare another directorship. The pressure intensified last week when Mr Mandelson confirmed that Mr Robinson was facing an investigation into 13 other possible breaches of company law. Mr Robinson will also face questions about a memo he wrote to Robert Maxwell and his son, Kevin, on July 24, 1990 which showed that he had lobbied the Overseas Development Agency to support a Maxwell business. On House of Commons note paper, Mr Robinson wrote: "We continue to quote for business - most recently for India, where GR (Geoffrey Robinson) has support in principle from the ODA." Mr Heathcoat-Amory was also written to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. He said that for Mr Robinson to omit any mention of the relationship in the MPs' Register of Interests on the grounds that he received no salary from Mr Maxwell was "to ignore his duty to declare the huge financial interest he had in this relationship". Yesterday it appeared as though the Government was divided over Mr Robinson's future. Reports claimed that Tony Blair wanted to sack him, while Gordon Brown, his chief ally, wanted him to remain. Any new investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards is sure to be a lengthy affair. Sir Gordon is due to retire before the end of the year and his successor, Elizabeth Firkin, will not arrive until February.

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Only one in five backs the euro

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

PUBLIC support for entry into the single European currency — and even for membership of the European Union — has fallen steeply in the past six years, according to a government-funded survey. The British and Social European Attitudes survey discloses that the proportion of people in this country supporting membership of the EU fell from 77 per cent in 1991 to 55 per cent last year. The report, the most comprehensive of its kind, reveals that 28 per cent favoured complete withdrawal from the European Union. The Government will be concerned by the disclosure that plans to replace the pound with the euro are the main reason for increasing opposition to Britain being in the EU. Membership of European economic and monetary union is supported by fewer than one person in five. The Prime Minister has committed himself to making a decision about membership of the single currency after the next election but says that he should only join if this would be in the country's interests. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the survey vindicated the Conservatives' stance, which rules out joining the currency in the next Parliament as well as this one. "The attempt by the Government to force-narrate Britain into a single currency is backfiring and creating anti-European sentiment," he said. Geoffrey Evans, who worked on the report, said: "A clear factor behind the slide in support for the EU is fear of and opposition to a single European currency." It says that 61 per cent of Britons wish to keep the pound; 17 per cent support switching to the euro. The survey was carried out by the Social Community and Planning Research organisation, between May to September 1997.

Commonwealth chief woos Irish

By AUDREE MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Commonwealth Secretary General will raise Ireland's possible re-entry to the international club next month when he visits Dublin to hold meetings with the Irish President and Prime Minister. Chief Ameka Anyaoku, who would like to see Ireland return to the Commonwealth, said that he was "greatly looking forward" to discussing the matter with President Mary McAleese and Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. "Clearly I will be happy to discuss these matters if they are raised and even if they are not raised I will look forward to the opportunity of discussing them." Ireland left the Commonwealth on becoming a republic in 1949. Mary Robinson courted controversy during her presidency when she suggested rejoining the organisation. She and others said that it would act as a comfort to Unionists feeling threatened by the future prospect of a united Ireland. The controversy resurfaced last week when Mr Ahern, leader of the republican Fianna Fail party, told *The Times* that there will be a debate on whether Ireland should re-join. His own party quickly divided in their reaction to his comments. Eamon O Cuiv, the junior arts minister and grandson of former republican leader Eamon de Valera, has come out in favour of re-joining and is campaigning to persuade his parliamentary colleagues of the merits of his views. He said: "There is a normalisation of relationships now between Ireland and Britain and if our going back to the Commonwealth gave comfort to Unionists then I would have no difficulty with it at all." Albert Reynolds, the former Taoiseach who was one of the architects of the peace process, spoke against the suggestion.

Curb on threats to meat inspectors

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government promised yesterday to crack down on violence and intimidation against meat inspectors by slaughterhouse managers and their staff. More than 50 per cent of inspectors who took part in a survey by Unison, the public sector union, and the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) complained of being verbally abused, threatened with knives and shotguns and even physically attacked. "I am deeply disturbed to hear continued reports of intimidation of Meat Hygiene Service staff", Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, said. "It is totally unacceptable that public servants employed to ensure the safety of meat should be treated in this way. The Government will take firm steps against this." The release of the survey results comes as Britain's farmers try to recapture foreign markets for their beef and Government assurances that abattoir controls are now being properly enforced played a key role in getting the EU to ease the beef embargo. Ben Priestley, Unison's national officer responsible for negotiations with the MHS, said the 1,000 inspectors who were members of the union faced abuse and threats on an almost daily basis. In the worst cases people have been

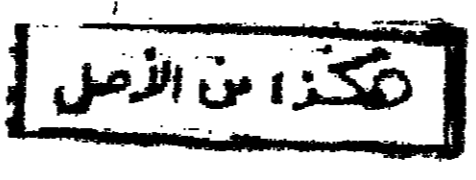


Brown: said that he was disturbed to hear reports

threatened with shotguns and knives," he said. Eric Hoyle, who spent 15 years as a meat inspector, believes the stress of the job was

a factor in the onset of ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis, or "yuppie flu"), which forced him to retire two years ago at the age of 48. "On one occasion I was physically attacked," he said. Mr Hoyle said he believed the threat of intimidation meant that many inspectors were inclined to turn a blind eye so as to avoid a confrontation with the abattoir manager. Of the 1,540 questionnaires sent out to inspectors 770 came back and of those 409 reported incidents of violence or intimidation. The Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, representing most of the big abattoirs, dismissed the reports of intimidation as highly exaggerated.

Look out for girls, please... Gibb and Daniel... Mrs Justice Hogg concerned... Travelling Friday... Hawking... Tony Hawk's... French sparkle...



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Look out for these girls, pleads judge

Frances Gibb and Daniel McGrory report on rejected couple on the run

A JUDGE has made an impassioned plea to find two girls missing with a couple who had been turned down as their adoptive parents.

Jade Bennett, five, and her sister Hannah, three, vanished three months ago on the day that their foster carers, Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley, were due to give them up. They are believed to have been wandering between holiday resorts in four counties, staying in bed-and-breakfast hotels or caravan sites.

Mrs Justice Hogg, a Family Division judge and a mother, said that she was "very worried for their safety and well-being". She added: "We do not know where they are or the conditions in which they are now living."

"Somewhere, someone knows where they are or someone has seen them. Now I beseech that person to come forward with whatever information he or she has, so we can find these two little girls."

The judge had called media representatives to her court so that she could make a statement seeking help to trace the sisters.

The judge said that the Bramleys disappeared with the girls from their home in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, on September 14, when they were due to hand back the girls to their mother, after being



Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley: "Will not harm children"

turned down as adoptive parents. Mr Bramley, 34, a postal worker, and his wife, 35, had cared for the girls since March.

The couple have eluded police and social workers, apparently sheltered by sympathetic strangers they meet who do not want to see them caught. Television appeals have failed to find them.

Detectives say that they have been given tip-offs about their whereabouts, but often after the couple had moved on. There have been reported sightings of the couple in Ireland and of their blue Honda Concerto car. The car registration number is G152 SHR, but

police believe the number plates may have been changed.

Detective Sergeant Mark Nicholson, who is leading the hunt, said: "We are being portrayed as the heartless bad guys while the Bramleys are painted as an innocent couple who could not have their own children and now face losing two daughters who had been with them since March."

"People are thinking, 'Good luck to them, hope they keep on running,' but it's the little girls who are the victims and they must be wondering why they keep moving address every couple of days without their toys and all the things

they are used to." The police concede that they are not sure that the Bramleys have broken any law and still refer to this as a missing-persons case, although there is some embarrassment at the failure to find them.

The getaway was meticulously planned after social workers in Cambridge told the couple that they could not adopt the girls, whom they also intended to take back into council care.

It was the first time that they had fostered children but, after several meetings, social workers had decided that they had "inadequate parenting skills" and gave them a month to hand back the girls.

The couple used their credit cards to withdraw money and emptied their bank accounts so that they had almost £5,000 to make their escape. Mr Bramley told his bosses at the Royal Mail depot in Peterborough that he was taking holiday, and the couple left their £70,000 detached home.

Police suspect that Mr Bramley, who had previously worked in the motor trade, may have made up false number plates for his car. Their first hideout was in Norfolk at a holiday caravan site the Bramleys had visited before with the girls. Since then, they have been spotted in Norfolk, Kent and Sussex, but



Jade Bennett, left, and her sister Hannah: police are worried about how long the Bramleys' money will last

have fled by the time police discovered where they had been staying.

Police admit that the two girls "appear well cared for" but there is increasing concern that, as their money runs out, so the Bramleys may get more desperate.

Mr Nicholson said: "Obviously our prime concern is for those little girls' safety. Their foster parents must be getting

more desperate every day they stay away."

The girls' natural mother, Jackie Bennett, said she feared that her daughters were in danger and pleaded with the Bramleys to leave the children somewhere safe, even if the couple want to stay on the run.

Cambridgeshire social services denied that they "spooked" the couple into absconding. They are legally required to

give warnings that foster children are being taken away.

The director of social services, Liz Railton, said: "We feel absolutely confident that what we have done is to act in the best interests of these children. I have every sympathy with Mr and Mrs Bramley in this difficult situation, but I appeal to them to put the children's needs first."

"The girls need extra special

parenting. No one is suggesting that the Bramleys are not good parents — but these children need more than this and they need it now."

Mrs Bramley's brother, Dave Boodle, 37, a civil servant, said: "There is no way that Jenny or Jeff would cause any harm to any child. They love and care about children too much to cause any harm to the girls."

Rare plea came after action by council

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MRS JUSTICE HOGG became involved with the case after Cambridgeshire County Council applied to the courts for "seek and find" orders to enable the girls to be traced.

Robert Emery, the High Court tipstaff, who is the civil law enforcement officer, said: "This is entirely the judge's decision." Although acting in her judicial capacity, she was also a mother and was "concerned as a mother", he added. He could not recall a similar public plea being made by a judge in such a way.

The judge said: "Sadly, Jade and Hannah's mother was unable to care for them as she would have wished. In June 1997 she asked the local authority to look after them. The local authority placed the girls with short-term foster carers."

In January this year, the girls' mother decided their welfare would be best served by adoption and in due course the



Mrs Justice Hogg: was concerned "as a mother"

Bramleys were identified as the new carers and the girls went to them in March.

But, the judge said, "As time passed, it became clear to the local authority that, despite the work that had gone into arranging the placement, the Bramleys were unable to offer the girls the special home that

they so much needed." The Bramleys sought legal advice and unsuccessfully tried to challenge the decision through the courts, she said. On September 14, the day they were due to hand the girls back to Cambridgeshire Social Services, they disappeared.

Mrs Justice Hogg said: "They have not been seen since. No one seems to know where they are despite extensive investigations carried out by the police and others."

She added: "I am concerned that Jade and Hannah should now be found as quickly as possible... The court has no means of knowing whether their health and educational needs are being met." The judge appealed directly to anyone with information, which would be treated in confidence, to go to the police or the court and she urged the Bramleys to contact the High Court tipstaff on 0171-936 6000.

Travelling fridge makes TV mark

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

A BESTSELLING travelogue chosen as a Radio 4 Morning Story has made a small piece of history by becoming the first book to be turned into a television commercial.

Round Ireland... With a Fridge, which has sold 50,000 copies in Britain and Ireland, is the inspiration for a new £2.3 million campaign for Harp Irish Lager, which will have its first airing on television tomorrow.

The book's author, Tony Hawks, stars in the commercial with the domestic fridge that, as the result of a bet, accompanied him as he hitchhiked around Ireland.

In a matter of days, Hawks and his fridge became national celebrities and were featured in many local newspapers and on regional television. The book charts his experiences and the people he met along the way; at one point the fridge was blessed by a Mother Superior. Film rights are being negotiated.

The two commercials draw on real experiences in the book

such as when Hawks, a television and radio comedian, and his fridge were given a lift in a horsebox and when he took it surfing.

Gerry Moira, creative director of Publicis, the advertising agency behind the commercials, said: "We thought Hawks's bet was a very Irish story, which fitted well with the brand and we hope to continue the story with further commercials."



Tony Hawks: making history with his fridge

Jackson considers England for son

By Warwick Mansell

MICHAEL JACKSON is contemplating having his son, Prince, educated in England. The singer has made inquiries about putting his name down for Stowe. His interest on behalf of his 21-month-old son follows inquiries by Madonna about a future place for her daughter, Lourdes, two, at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

It is understood that Jackson, 40, sent a member of his management team to look at Stowe, the £14,940-a-year school in Buckinghamshire whose old boys include Richard Branson, David Niven and Michael Grade. The school, founded in 1923, last night declined to comment.

An undoubted attraction for the security-conscious Jackson would be privacy. Stowe, a sprawling country house built in 1770, is set in 750 acres of National Trust land. The school also has a reputation for artistic excellence.

French sparkle to rescue

THE French have come to the rescue of the old enemy to ensure that one of Britain's historic gateways to the Continent enjoys a bright Christmas (Tim Jones writes).

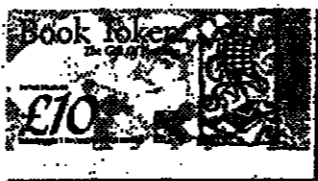
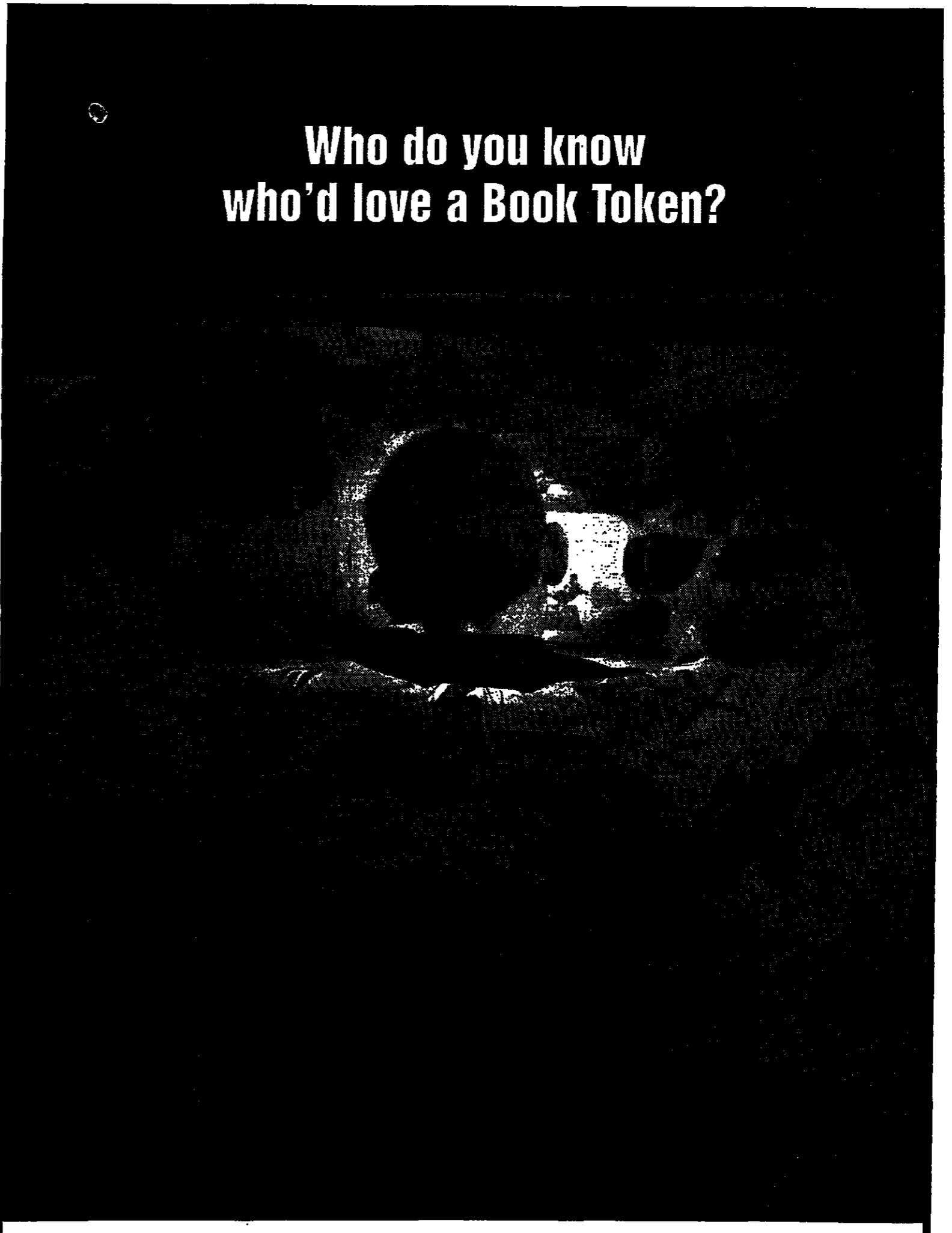
For the past few years, the festive lights at Folkestone have been criticised as being Scrooge-like and feeble, lacking the sparkle of other, more prosperous towns. Philippe Esclasse, Folke-

stone's French-born town centre manager, tried in vain to raise the £45,000 that local traders and Shepway District Council considered necessary to make the town shine again. But the Christmas coffers, he was told, were empty.

Then M Esclasse recalled that Boulogne, with which Folkestone is twinned, had last year won the prize for the best-decorated town in north-

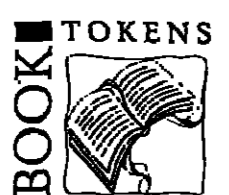
ern France. As a result of his pleading, 14 council workers from Boulogne will arrive in the English Channel port tomorrow to demonstrate what French flair is all about. Equipped with six 20ft Christmas trees laden with artificial snow, and a host of lights and garlands they hope — for just £7,000 — to transform the town centre into an irresistible attraction.

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THE GIFT OF READING

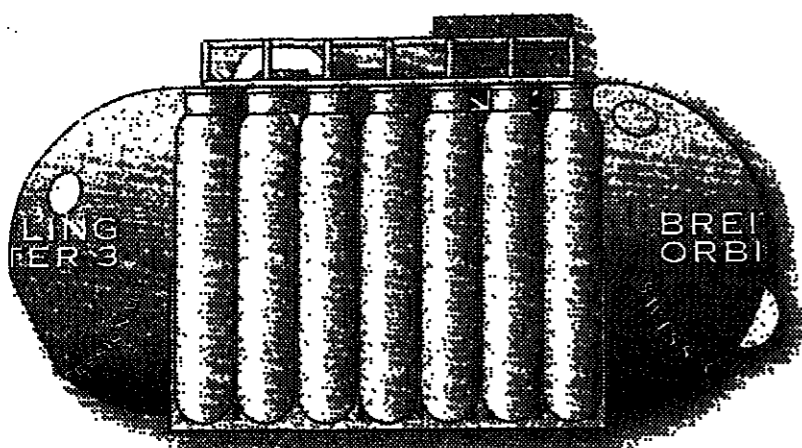


BREITLING ORBITER 3

Non-stop round-the-world flight: an experimental balloon sets out to conquer the last remaining aeronautical record.

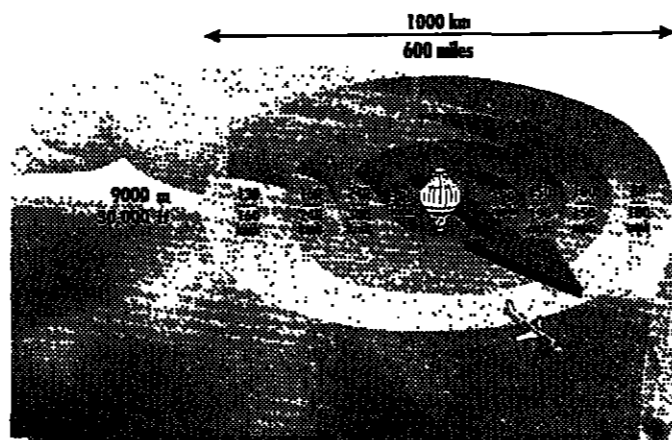
On February 6, 1998, BREITLING ORBITER 2 touched down in Burma, ten days after lifting off from Switzerland, thus setting the absolute flight duration record. The lessons learned from this flight convinced BREITLING that the project would only be feasible if certain technical parameters were brought under control. Several months of reflection and trials have enabled experts specially commissioned by BREITLING to improve the balloon's efficiency and flight autonomy.

(650,000 cu.ft) in volume. The new pressurized capsule, made of kevlar and carbon fiber, is now equipped with propane burners. BREITLING ORBITER 3 will lift off this winter from Château-d'Œx, between November and mid-February, as soon as a favorable weather window appears. For in fact, even with the most cutting-edge technology, the success or failure of such a project largely depends on meteorological factors.





Based on observations made during the February flight, as well as in the course of laboratory simulations, these specialists have succeeded in reducing the uncertainties, particularly those linked to fuel consumption problems and night/day thermal differences.

BREITLING ORBITER 3 is the result of this research. This prototype, based on new technological foundations, comprises a redesigned and better insulated envelope, with a helium cell measuring 18,500 cu.m



Without the jet-stream – the "wind tube" which blows at over 300 km/h (190 mph) between 7,000 m and 12,000 m altitude (23,000 ft and 39,000 ft) – such a round-the-world trip would be a pipedream.



 Bertrand Piccard  Tony Brown

To handle this gigantic balloon, BREITLING has enlisted the talents of Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard, gearing up for his third attempt, and Englishman Tony Brown, a flight engineer on Concorde and an experienced balloonist.

BREITLING ORBITER 3 CONTEST: Pilot's license for winners

As part of the BREITLING ORBITER 3 experimental project, a contest open to all-comers will reward five people having made the closest estimate of flight duration, distance covered, maximum speed, highest altitude and number of countries overflown during the BREITLING ORBITER 3 flight. The bottom line? An original prize, as BREITLING will offer the five lucky winners a chance to earn their private pilot's license. Further details on:

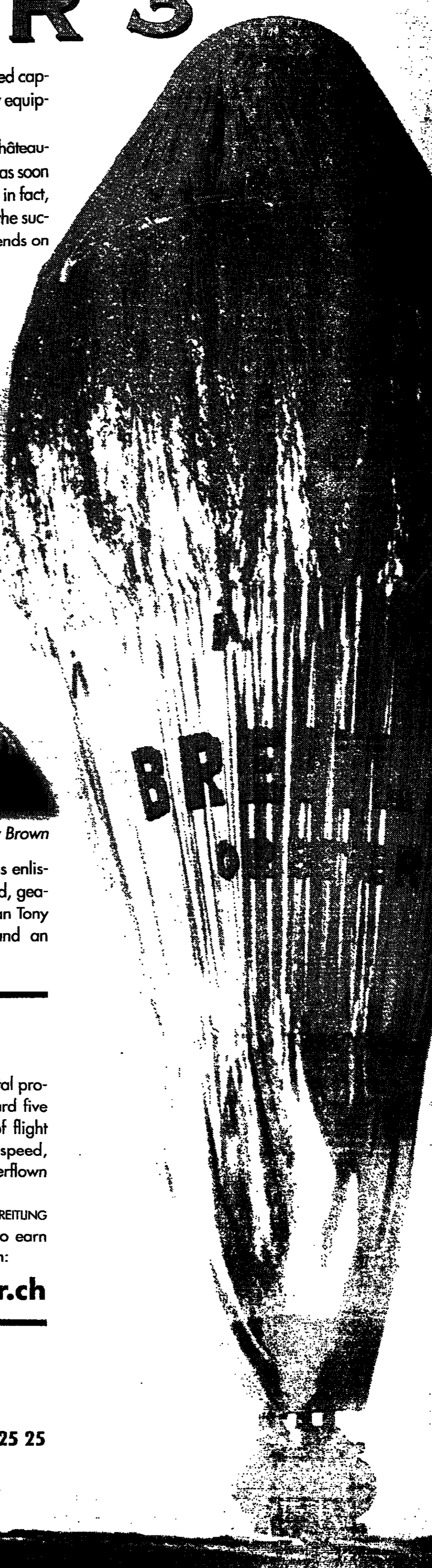
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EMERGENCY

In addition to the cutting-edge equipment on board BREITLING ORBITER 3, both pilots will be wearing a BREITLING EMERGENCY multifunction chronograph, a wristwatch incorporating a miniaturized emergency transmitter operating on the 121.5 MHz aviation frequency.



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Cleared doctor faces new harassment questions

Richard Duce reports on the latest evidence in a patient's continuing claim against her gynaecologist

A LEADING hospital professor faces questions by the General Medical Council over an apparent inconsistency in evidence he gave to a disciplinary hearing that cleared him of serious professional misconduct.

Kyriacos Nicolaides, an eminent gynaecologist, was cleared last May amid claims that he had joked with a pregnant woman, Jennifer Sabin, about her underwear as he carried out keyhole surgery on her dying unborn twins. During questioning by his defending barrister, Professor Nicolaides was asked if ever in his professional life there had been an allegation of sexual familiarity against him, to which he replied "No, none."

However, *The Times* has seen documents which show that, three months earlier, the professor was the subject of an

internal investigation at King's College Hospital, South London, after an allegation of sexual harassment. He was cleared of the allegation, made by his personal assistant after only five days in her new job, but now lawyers acting for Mrs Sabin, 42, from Morpeth, Northumberland, have written to the GMC to point out the apparent inconsistency of Professor Nicolaides's testimony at the May hearing.

Her lawyers have written to the GMC after making contact with Shelley Ormerod, 26, who levelled the harassment claim against her boss in January. The internal inquiry held on February 11 rejected a number of allegations against the professor, but accepted that he may have called Miss Ormerod "tarty" because his colloquial English was not good.



Lawyers for Jenny Sabin, above, have written to the GMC about Professor Nicolaides's testimony

Such comments, the professor believed, were "conveying only flirtatious behaviour".

Miss Ormerod, from Wimbledon, southwest London, had also complained that, on her second day at the Harris Birthright Centre, Professor Nicolaides had asked her to massage his neck. The panel concluded that the massage "had begun voluntarily and was within the practice of the department" because the pro-

fessor worked constantly with ultrasound equipment.

Miss Ormerod worked with Professor Nicolaides, 45, for only five days and, after rejecting the chance of working elsewhere within the hospital, was paid off with £3,500 from her £19,000-a-year post.

Mrs Sabin is not only recovering from the trauma of losing her unborn twins but also what she believes to be the humiliating experience of the

GMC hearing at which much of her evidence was rejected. Although the misconduct claim was not upheld, the GMC hearing was critical of Professor Nicolaides's bedside manner. It found that he had asked Mrs Sabin if they had gas and electricity in Newcastle and that he had said "Shir" when he realised the laser surgery had gone wrong.

There is no suggestion that Professor Nicolaides deliberately withheld the information about Miss Ormerod's claim.

Friends of the professor say that he believed the question put to him at the GMC hearing related solely to any claim against him in a doctor-and-patient capacity. The professor told *The Times*: "I answered the questions truthfully and I believed them to be answered truthfully in the context in which they were put."

The GMC now has to decide whether it wants to interview the professor about the latest development. A spokeswoman said: "We do not discuss the details of complaints."



Shelley Ormerod: harassment allegation was rejected

Britons buy the dearest Christmas presents

By MANUS COSTELLO

BRITONS plan to show their Christmas spirit by buying more expensive presents than the French or Americans. A survey has found that British shoppers intend to spend £42 per gift, compared to the French average of less than £30 and the US average of £20.

But the British, who will buy an average of seven gifts, totalling £290, will still be outspent by the Americans, who plan to buy an average of 25 presents, totalling £500.

"Historically, consumers in the US have exchanged gifts with a wider circle of family and friends than in most other countries," said Irwin Cohen, of Deloitte & Touche, which carried out the survey.

"There is probably a little more emphasis in Europe on the quality of the item and the store experience, in contrast to the American preference for low prices."

Most Britons surveyed said that they intended to spend more than they did last year — an average of £570, including parties and Christmas sales.

Air crash pilot had led Red Arrows

By JOANNA BALE

THE pilot who died when his aircraft crashed into a hillside in Devon was a former leader of the RAF's Red Arrows aerobatics team and had made crash-landings in two previous air accidents.

Captain Raymond Lovegood, 66, from Chichester, led the Red Arrows display team from December 1970 to November 1971. In 1984 he survived when a transport plane he was flying crash-landed at the Farnborough Air Show and, in 1987, while flying a single-engine Piper Cherokee from the United States to Britain, he was forced to make another crash-landing, this time in a snow-covered forest in Canada. In the second accident, Captain Lovegood, who had managed to broadcast a mayday call, survived for 16 hours with a shattered foot in temperatures reaching -16C until rescuers reached him.

He and his fellow crew-member, Adam Saunders, 72, from Canada, died on Saturday morning when their four-engine Dash 7 turbo-prop aircraft crashed into a hillside near Ashburton, Devon. The aircraft had taken off from Guernsey on a test flight about an hour earlier.

Scientists find better way to treat cancer cells

By GILLIAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS investigating the genetic make-up of cancerous tumours have devised a method of identifying which patients are likely to benefit from treatment.

Researchers have pinpointed the rogue genes within cancer cells which acquire immunity to drugs used to reduce tumours. Some cancer patients stop responding to chemotherapy once their cells have developed immunity. The development will allow doctors to offer alternative treatments.

Writing in the *American Cancer Journal*, Howard McLeod, from the Institute of Medical Sciences at Aberdeen University, said: "Genes are an important indicator of who is going to get cancer, but they can also indicate how you are going to respond to treatment. If you can identify who is not going to respond, then you can focus attention on these genes and switch them off with different drugs."

David Secher, the head of drug development at the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "What this team is doing is closing the net on cancers that do not respond to chemotherapy."

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Two years after IRA blast, the show goes on

£31 million later, the curtain rises again on a Manchester stage. Russell Jenkins reports

THE Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester opens its doors to the public tonight for the first performance since an IRA bomb devastated the city centre more than two and half years ago.

The audience will see the same show, Stanley Houghton's *Hindle Wakes*, whose run came to an abrupt end in August, 1996. The company believes that the seamless continuation of the run stands as a fitting symbol of its survival.

The completion of a £31 million refurbishment, which brought the old Corn Exchange back from the brink of demolition and created a spectacular setting for the world's most advanced theatre-in-the-round, is also an important signpost to the city's regeneration. It has been a long and difficult journey. Actors, directors and backstage staff, cast out of their ruined home, kept the show going under an improvised tent structure in Upper Campfield across the city.

The familiar "spaceship" module, the company's trademark auditorium, emerged relatively unscathed. But for some time specialist engineers debated whether the 19th-century structure, which was blasted from its foundations

by the huge bomb, could be saved.

Much of the funding, largely made up of the biggest National Lottery grant to be made outside London, has been spent on reconstructing the fabric of the building, notably the creation of a magnificent blue glass dome, new offices, rehearsal rooms and a wooden floor. Even the board showing the old trading prices will be restored.

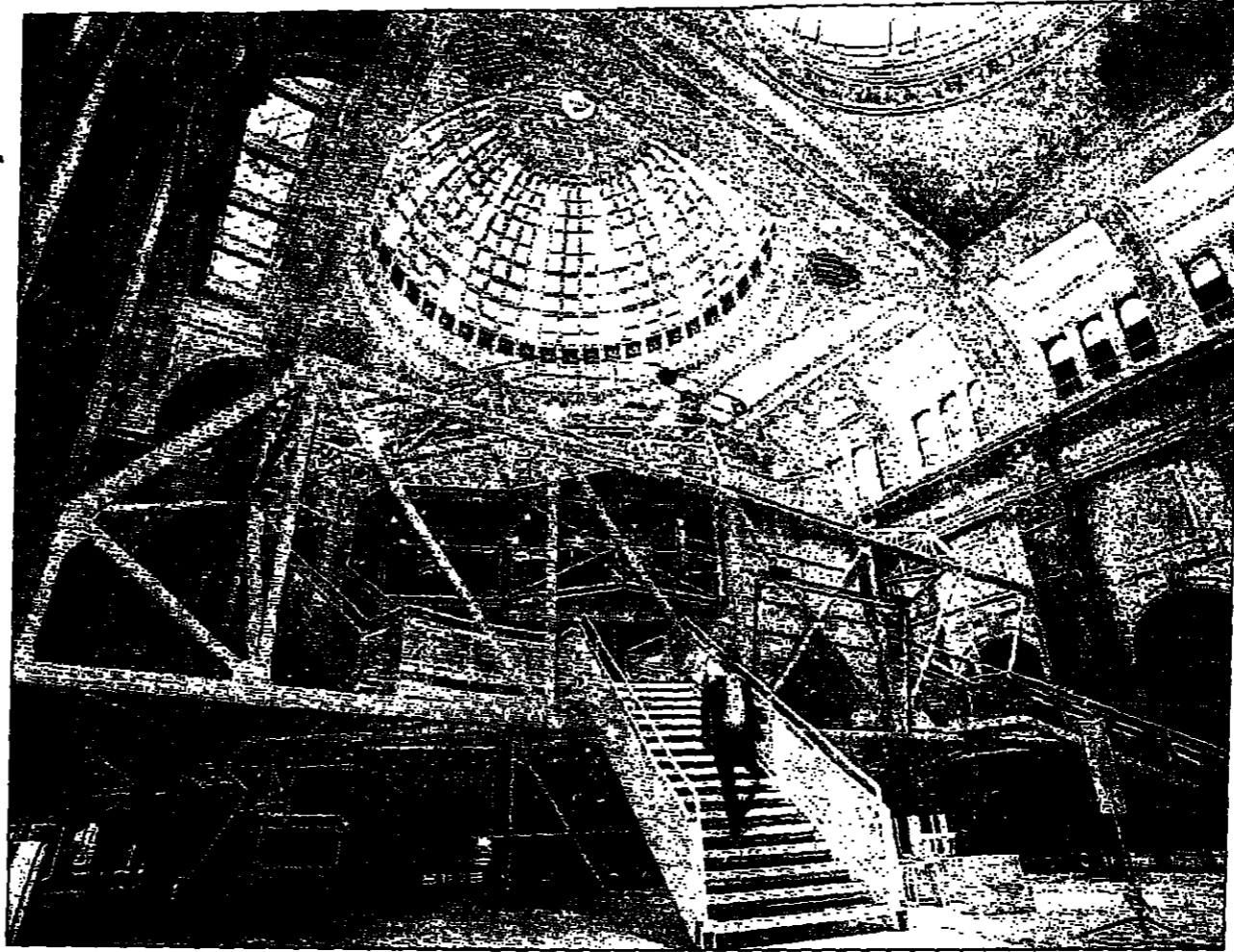
The Great Hall surrounding the theatre has acquired a stylish café and restaurant, ticket office and shops. The theatre — still housed in its metal

skeleton — now has new lighting and sound and a system for flying sets that can open up the roof to the dome. There is also a new studio theatre, a flexible space with seating for 120, where new playwrights will be encouraged and where touring companies will be invited to perform their work.

Before the bomb, theatre goes could be lost in almost sepulchral gloom of the old Corn Exchange. There was, old hands remember, a cathedral-like atmosphere that had begun to hang heavy on actors and audience alike. The architects exploited the opportunity to lift the gloom and the roof is now dominated by glass domes and brightly coloured glass windows that bathe the marble pillars and walls in shafts of warm pink light. It is what architects call "surprise pink", created by a fortuitous trick of the light.

Senior management were meeting their architects in London on that hot summer Saturday when they learnt, over the telephone, that Manchester had been hit by the biggest bomb blast on mainland Britain since the Second World War.

Gregory Hersov, a director, recalls how they learnt of the devastation in a succession



Awash with light, the Royal Exchange Theatre leaves its days of gloom far behind. Below, the theatre's façade

calls. At first, they were told they would miss a few performances, then the run and, a short time later, this rose from six months to a year. When they hurried back to St Anne's Square to see the shattered glass and the shredded curtains billowing in the wind, it had sunk in that this was a fight for survival.

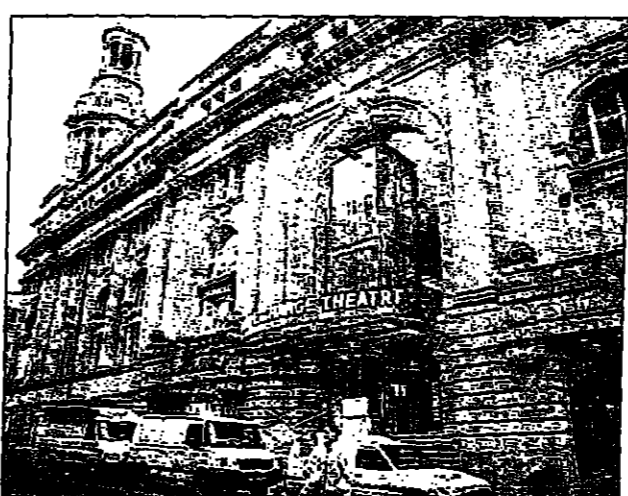
It prompted a period of soul searching. "The bomb concentrated the minds," said Mr Hersov. "Being thrown out of your home made us think seriously about why we were here, what the company stands for artistically."

"It made us believe passionately that we should exist. We

also had a tremendous amount of support which showed there was a real affection for our role in the city."

Braham Murray, the senior artistic director, acknowledges that, in the old Corn Exchange, audiences felt as if they were going to a cathedral. He said: "It is beautiful now. I could not have dared to hope that it would turn out so well. People who found it forbidding before will think so as well. We have got the opportunity to open it up as a place, not just a theatre, but it should be a real kind of meeting place for Manchester."

The new season includes Tom Courtenay in *King Lear*.



Sue Johnson back in her role in *Hindle Wakes*

Alliance hopes to wipe out mink

By Gillian Harris
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIONISTS and landowners in Scotland have joined forces to destroy a population of feral mink in the Hebrides that they claim is threatening the survival of thousands of rare birds.

The American predators which escaped from a farm 30 years ago are being held responsible for decimating vital breeding colonies of ringed plovers, lapwings, dunlins, snipe and redshank which are found only in the machair nesting grounds on the Western Isles and, at yes-

terday's launch of the Mink Eradication Scheme — Hebrides (Mesh), the founder, Mark Miller Mundy, said the aim was to kill off the estimated 10,000 mink which roam the islands. It will begin with a "live trapping" programme. Mink caught will be destroyed while other animals such as otters will be released.

"The devastation to gull and tern colonies and to waders from the depredation of mink is sickening and something must be done," Mr Miller Mundy said.

Rob Fuller, from the British Trust for Ornithology, who has studied bird populations on the Western Isles for 20 years,

said the Hebridean breeding grounds were among the most important in Europe. "It would be a tragedy to see the breeding birds slaughtered by exotic predators introduced by man," he said.

So far £10,000 has been raised to fund initial stages of the campaign which is being co-ordinated through the Game Conservancy Trust. Mike Swan, who is writing a report on the damage caused by mink, said: "Mink are a terrible problem throughout Britain, but the damage they do to the unique bird community on the machair would be an international disaster."

Computer rota saves stress

SHIFT workers' lives can now be made easier by a computerised roster manager capable of planning the perfect rota.

Shiftcheck, a program designed by Lawrence Smith, a psychologist from Leeds University, juggles shift patterns to cause minimum disruption to employees' lives.

Research has shown that poorly thought-out rotas can lead to disturbed sleep cycles, chronic fatigue, irritability and depression. They disrupt

family and social lives, reduce work performance and increase the risk of accidents.

Shiftcheck analyses specific roster features, such as shift rotation patterns and the scheduling of rest days, then highlights areas of potential disruption and suggests improvements.

Initial trials have shown a 30 per cent increase in work satisfaction, a 20 per cent reduction in work-related stress problems, and an overall im-

provement in the quality of family and social lives.

Dr Smith, who designed the program for Merseyside Police, said: "Society has come to rely increasingly on men and women who work outside 'normal' hours. Employers who use Shiftcheck can help to ensure that all is being done to minimise the disruption to their staff." The Shiftcheck CD-Rom is available through University of Leeds Innovations for £499.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fall kills second brother

A man mourning his brother's fatal fall from a motorway bridge fell to his death at the same place yesterday. Andrew McKay, 21, had spent hours staring out from the pedestrian bridge over the M8 at Riddrie, Glasgow, where his brother David, 17, died eight weeks ago. Police said that the elder brother appeared to have overbalanced while sitting on a handrail, "and friends had been nearby." "There would appear to be no suspicious circumstances." A family friend said: "He was very close to his brother."

Birth of a blade

Christopher Dean, the former Olympic ice dance champion, has become a father. His wife, Jill, herself a former figure skater, gave birth to Jack in Colorado Springs in the United States, where the couple now live.

Pub deaths

Two women were found dead in their room after a suspected carbon monoxide leak at the pub in which they were staying at Wenthorn, Shropshire. Two other guests are seriously ill and being treated in a hospital decompression chamber.

£10,000 for cat

David Horsbin, a businessman, and his wife, Linda, are offering a £10,000 reward for the return of Jeremy, a three-year-old Abyssinian tomcat, which went missing from their home near Northwich, Cheshire, two weeks ago.

Lockerbie case

Jim Swire, a founder of UK Families Flight 103, is to travel to Holland to meet the Mayor of Zeist, where the trial of two Libyans accused of involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, is scheduled to take place.

Metro crossword

Two clues to the crossword on page 13 of Saturday's Metro section were omitted. They were: 26 down, What is Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie's stage name? and 28 down, What is Carty Simons' greatest conceit?

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Mystery at bottom of Queen's secret garden

Unknown species lurk in Buckingham Palace grounds, writes Nick Nuttall

A REMARKABLE range of wildlife has been discovered in the Queen's private gardens in the heart of London.

Surveys by members of the London Natural History Society of the 39 acres of beds, lawns and forest and of the lake, have found that Buckingham Palace Gardens rank among the finest wildlife areas in Britain, with moths, butterflies, plants and ferns. Two previously unknown species of fungi, one found on dead laurel leaves and the other growing in profusion in a bed of holly bushes, have been found, to the delight of scientists.



Flora and fauna of Buckingham Palace Gardens: the giant hogweed; the great-crested grebe; insects such as wasps; and other plants such as orchids



The researchers, who are just completing the report, have also recorded well over 240 species of wild plants including a curious hybrid of the giant hogweed, and also a single-spotted orchid, a common skullcap, a round-leaved floulen, a stone parsley, a round-leaved cranesbill and an adder's tongue fern. There are some 1,500 varieties of trees and shrubs.

Nick Radford, of English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisory body, said that there had been found to be more than 100 species of birds. There are at least 20 important breeding species, including great-crested grebe, in the gardens. This is far higher than the number of breeding species in nearby St James's and Green Park combined.

The gardens were first laid out by James I with mulberry bushes in 1609, in an attempt to cultivate silkworms. They

took on much of their present appearance in the reign of George IV.

A spokesman for English Nature said that Buckingham Palace Gardens now acted as a vital green area offering a tranquil refuge from where species could move out to other parts of Central London.

the gardens is probably partly a result of the absence of cats.

The studies by the society, whose members include experts from the Natural History Museum and Kew Gardens as well as enthusiastic amateurs, are revealing a wealth of butterfly and moth life.

The full findings are likely to show that the five-spot Bur-

net moth, *Zygaena trifoli*, visits the Palace, as does the rare, tiny gold and purple, *Aeslea* moth *Caloptilla azaleata*. Professor David Goode, director of the London Ecology Unit, visited the gardens three years ago, during a nature conservation survey for Westminster City Council. He found holly blue butterflies linked with ivy, which overgrows an old police station near the Queen's gallery.

Common blues and commas have also been logged, as has a colony of speckled wood butterflies.

To find a colony of speckled woods in the centre of London is quite amazing. The London Natural History Society have had moths traps there: 25 per cent of British moth species have been recorded at times over many years — quite astonishing," said Professor Goode.

Red-tailed damselflies and blue-tailed damselflies have also been recorded.

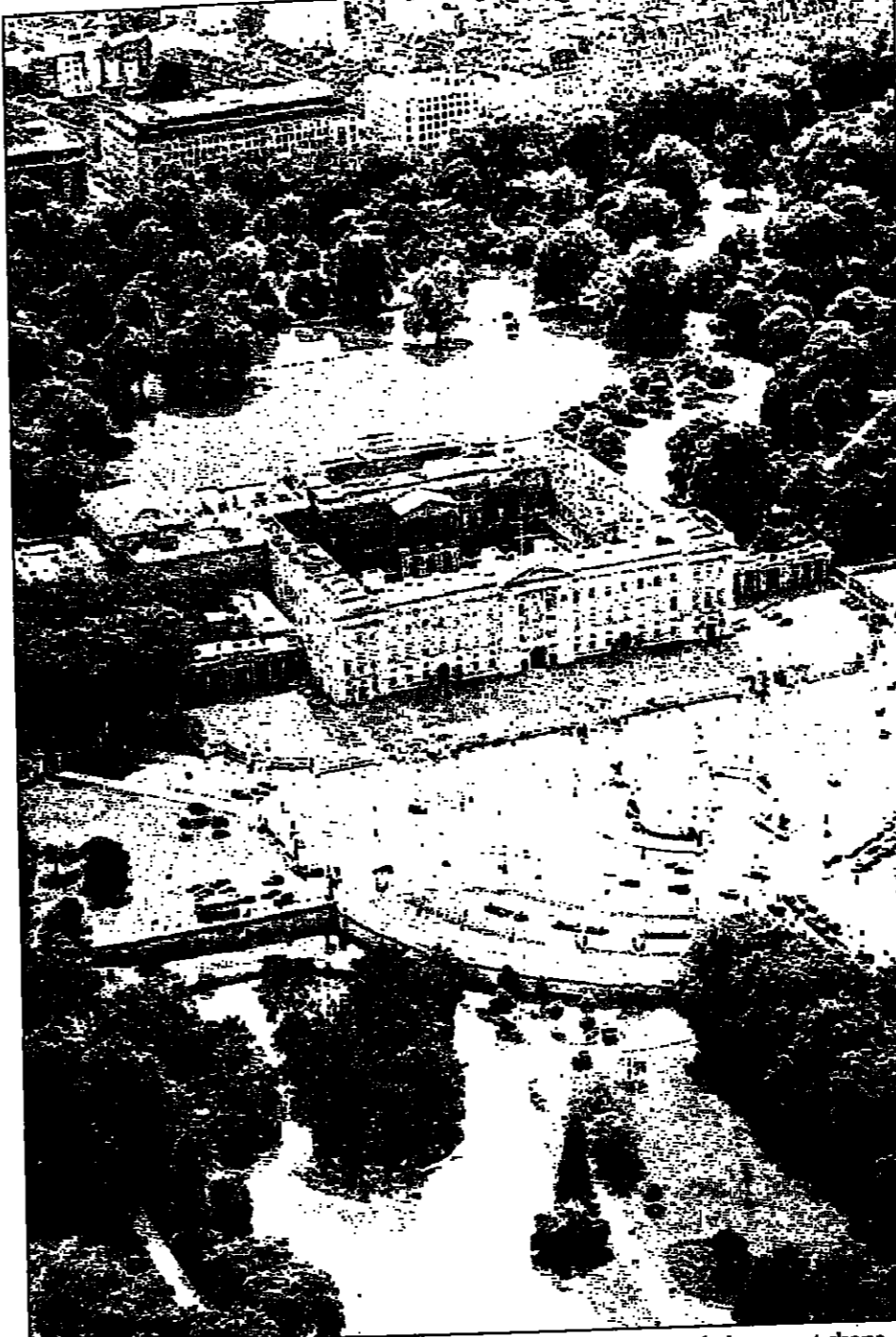
The gardens are a barometer of improvements in air quality since the 1950s clean-air legislation and the closure of acid rain-emitting power stations at Kingston upon Thames, Fulham and Batter-

sea. David Hawksworth, honorary president of the International Mycological Association and a member of the Palace Gardens survey team, said that when a comparable survey had been done 30 years ago, only two lichens had been found. The new research has

found 39 lichens, some of which have not been seen in Central London for 200 years. These include *Parmelia caperata*, whose tiny, two inch, rosettes were found on trees during the research, and whose presence has not been documented in Central London since the 18th century.

Professor Hawksworth said that the closure of Battersea Power Station, whose low-lying chimneys had pumped out sulphur dioxide and other fumes over the area, had allowed these lowly life forms, an alliance of fungi and algae, to thrive. It is thought that they have recolonised the gardens after being transported there by birds, attached to their feathers or claws.

However, it is the discovery



The gardens of Buckingham Palace, which took something like their present shape under George IV, are home to a newly discovered mushroom, below

of a mushroom about three inches tall and of a leaf-rotting fungus which has set the scientific community alight. The mushroom, which may or may not be edible, has been given the scientific name *Panaeolus atrobaleatus*. Alick Henrici, a mycological expert with the society, said yesterday: "We found 3,000 of these things in a large bed of holly bushes."

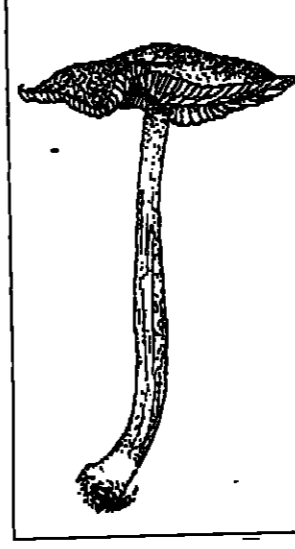
The experts suspect that the spores may have arrived in wood mulch from abroad and that the mushroom may turn out to be thriving in other countries.

Professor Hawksworth, a CBE and a visiting professor at London, Reading and Kent universities who runs My-

coNova, a consultancy based in Hendon, North London, said that the second new species had been discovered growing on fallen laurel leaves. It has been named *Melanospora pegleri* after Dr David Pegler, a former Kew Garden fungi scientist who has also been in the team.

The fungi is yellowish orange and appears as pimples on rotting leaves.

Professor Hawksworth said that the discovery of the two new species might have medicinal as well as scientific importance. Fungi have been used to produce many drugs, from penicillin to cyclosporin. In total, 700 species of fungi have been found at Buckingham Palace Gardens.



Riddle of the plant with no name

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW species of fern has been discovered in limestone rocks and clefts in the Wye Valley and South Wales. The plant, which is yet to be named, has been unearthed by a team at the Natural History Museum, in London.

The species, which has 4in fronds, was thought to be a hybrid or a variety of another fern called *Asplenium oestium*, which was first identified in 1989 growing on rocks and castle walls in Wales, including Chepstow. Genetic analysis combined with a study of its appearance and ecology has revealed that the one in the Wye valley is different enough to be a new species.

Mary Gibby, who made the find with Fred Rumsey and Johannes Vogel, said they were very excited by the discovery. They will check herbariums and old books to ensure there are no Victorian records and descriptions of a similar fern before giving it a Latin name.

News of the fern will be announced today at the publication of *The Web of Life: A Strategy for Systematic Biology in the United Kingdom*. This covers the discovery, description and naming of plants, animals and fossils. There is a worldwide push to collect and chronicle species and to find new ones for use in industry, food and medicines.

Stephen Blackmore, of the museum, who chairs the expert group covering systematics, said that it was "a great British strength". Studies indicate that there are 7,000 experts in the field worldwide, with 10 per cent in Britain. The new strategy aims to boost the numbers of children and graduates skilled in the field while increasing links with the developing world, which is believed to have the most new species awaiting discovery.

Civil service put on thinking

Julie Elliott on how Education officials to make...

Education officials to make...

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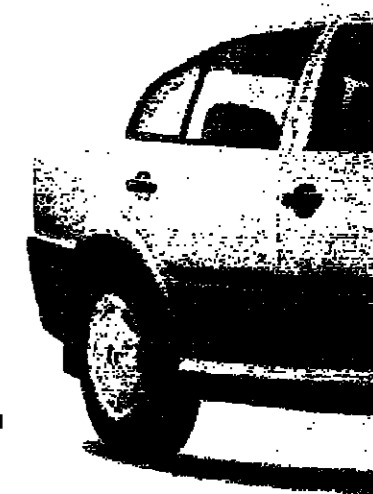
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Riddle of the plant with no name

By Nicky Nettle, Environment Correspondent

Civil servants put on their thinking caps

Valerie Elliott on how Edward de Bono is teaching education officials to make better use of their minds

CIVIL servants at the Department of Education and Employment are to have lessons in thinking, to develop bright ideas on schools and jobs.

Michael Bichard, the department's Permanent Secretary and the most unorthodox mandarin in Whitehall, has called in Edward de Bono, the international guru of creative thinking, to instruct staff of all grades how to make better use of their minds.

More than 200 officials crammed into a room for 120 to hear Dr de Bono explain his theories and, from next month, 70 staff have signed up for a crash course in lateral thinking and decision-making under his Six Thinking Hats system.

This does not signal a return to bowler hats as required accessories in Whitehall, but in future Dr de Bono's white, red, black, yellow, green and blue hats will be metaphorical de rigueur. Mr Bichard

hopes to set up more workshops later next year after monitoring the pilots.

The strategy is a direct response to Tony Blair's call to senior officials to be more creative, less hierarchical and to take more risks.

It is also preparing the ground for civil servants to work more closely across government with colleagues in other departments. Instead of defending their own fiefdom in Whitehall and starting the traditional departmental turf wars, officials in future are to work together constructively on a whole range of policy issues.

At his Piccadilly home last night, Dr de Bono, 65, said that he had been "very impressed" by the willingness of officials to learn new tricks. After advising world leaders and multinational companies for many years, he was delighted that the Government had asked him for help.

The aim, he said, was for them to move away from an adversarial approach where they used meetings to try to score points.

The key was to instil "parallel thinking" and for officials



Edward de Bono: "We do not do enough thinking about what can be. England is far behind in all this"

Man with more than a penny for his thoughts

By Valerie Elliott

EDWARD DE BONO is a cult figure in developing tricks to sharpen the mind. He says that his hobbies are toys and thinking, and he has identified games, puzzles and tricks to stimulate new thinking to speed up decisions and find imaginative solutions.

On the Internet, there are more than four million references to his work and it would take a devotee 30 working years to access every reference. For many psychologists, his works are like bibles and he has set up an international network of 600 accredited instructors to teach his theories to governments, companies and major institutions.

Dr de Bono, 65, is Maltese and first came to Britain as a Rhodes Scholar. Since then he has held academic appointments at Oxford, Cambridge, London and Harvard. His supremacy in mind works was first recognised in 1967 when he published *The Use of Lateral Thinking*. This was quickly followed by *The Mechanism of the Mind*, which offers basic principles now central to the development in the latest neuro-computers.

He said of his Six Thinking Hats system: "Without wishing to boast, this is the first new way of thinking to be developed for 2,400 years since the days of Plato, Socrates and Aristotle."

He has also developed a form of poetry called Bonto, in which the first line is an action, the second the reason for the action, the third a consequence of the action, and the fourth an appropriate philosophical reflection. For example: "Max danced on the table to show that he was able/the table soon gave way/showing off does not pay."

One of his key concepts is summarised by Dr de Bono as: "You can't dig a hole in a different place by digging the same hole deeper."

His latest book was *How To Be More Interesting* - a difficult feat for Dr de Bono himself. He has a minor planet named after him, Edebono, and he owns islands in three continents.

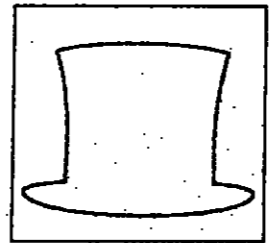
THOUGHT POWER GOES TO HIS HEAD

Dr de Bono asked *The Times* to photograph him with a pot plant on his head. He said: "Normally you would never take [such] a photo. I thought we should make a point of that. It is showing ideas coming out of my head and it symbolises the value and the richness of ideas." Simon Brooke-Webb, the photographer, said: "One of the first lessons of photography is to avoid making objects look as if they are coming out of someone's skull. He seems to be turning a number of accepted principles on their heads."



HATS OFF TO DE BONO: HOW THE GURU OF CREATIVE THINKING SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING SOME COLOUR INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

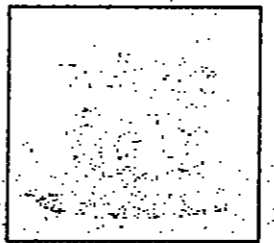
THE chairman of a meeting, wearing the blue "control" hat, may direct the flow of thought by calling for particular hats. If creativity is needed to find new alternatives, he might say: "I feel we should do some more green-hat thinking." If someone is very critical of an idea, another person could say: "That's great black-hat thinking. Now let's try some yellow." The emotional red hat could say: "I think that's a terrible idea," while the logical white hat may say: "Let's drop the argument and look at the facts."



WHITE HAT (Information known or needed); neutral and objective, using pure facts and figures like a computer. Distinguishes between checked and unproven facts and identifies missing information. Leaves personal opinions aside.



BLACK HAT (Judgment, devil's advocate, why it will not work); uses caution, not argument. Requires sound logical reasons, then passes critical, negative judgment. Analyses risks, then points out dangers, potential problems and design faults.



YELLOW HAT (Optimism, why it will work); positive and constructive. Looks for value and benefit and strives to find logical support. Speculative and opportunity-seeking, but creates concrete proposals and suggestions. Permits vision and dreams.



RED HAT (Feelings, hunches and intuition); legitimises emotions and feelings, such as fears, likes, dislikes, loves and hates. The opposite of neutrality and objectivity. Keeps it short, has no need to give reasons. Allows exploration of the feelings of others.

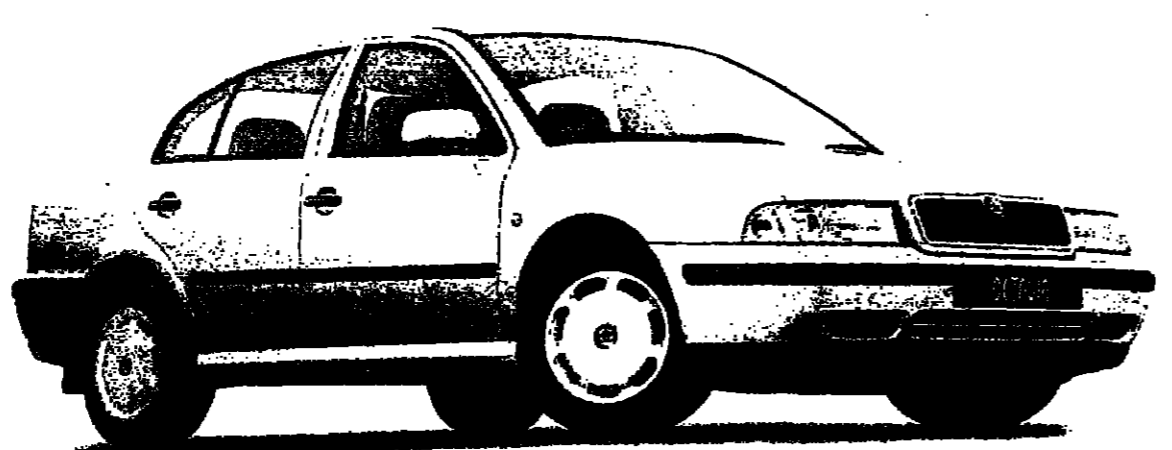


GREEN HAT (Possibilities, alternatives, new ideas); symbolises fertility and growth. Creative thinking, the search for alternatives. Does not need to be logical and moves from one idea to reach others. Generates new concepts and perceptions.



BLUE HAT (Managing the thinking process); the "control" hat. Organises the exploration of the subject. Calls for the use of other hats. Sets focus, defines problems, shapes questions. Responsible for summaries and conclusions. Ensures rules are observed.

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GERMANY

Herzog seeks to banish shadows of bitter past

ROMAN HERZOG, President of Germany, arrives in Britain tomorrow in the middle of a new anti-German feeding frenzy, but seems relaxed about the prospect. "I think you have to distinguish between what sometimes appears in the tabloid press and reality," he told *The Times* in an interview in his Berlin residence, Schloss Bellevue.

The Sun, overlooking more obvious candidates, such as Carlos the Jackal or Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel, last week identified Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, as "the most dangerous man in Europe". To many Germans this seemed rather more than a tabloid prank: as the euro approaches, the search is on in Britain for a bogeyman, a successor to Jacques Delors (as in "Up Yours, Delors").

The choice of a German mastermind, the menacing front-page photograph and the phrasing of the text came a little too close to black wartime propaganda for the tastes of Germans. "Huge numbers of Germans visit Britain every year, large numbers of English people go to Germany and they can paint their own picture," said the President. "That is much more important, especially among the young, than the occasional exaggerations of the tabloid press."

That is, of course, how Presidents are sup-

Roger Boyes speaks to the German President before his state visit and finds him philosophical about the British media's image of his country

posed to speak: at a register well above the mudslinging public debate. But the bluff former law professor (who made his name as head of the Constitutional Court) has highlighted an abiding problem: the gap between a hostile public image of Germany and the obvious sympathy felt by the political classes of both countries. "I doubt whether the tabloids really express the views of a nation — and that applies to the German press as well as the British."

Yet in the era of Margaret Thatcher there was broad harmony between the tabloid depiction of Germany (in particular Helmut Kohl's ambitions for Europe) and the Prime Minister's emotional assessment of the risks posed by the newly united country. Although John Major tried to remove some of the sting from the relationship, Germany remained a tabloid bugbear, if only because the argument over the European future was the fault-line running through the Conservative Party. The climate

changed with the arrival of Tony Blair and the decline of Helmut Kohl. Anglo-German diplomats hailed this as a new dawn — Gerhard Schröder's fanciful promise of a Franco-German-British entente was taken almost seriously. Then came *The Sun*.

The state visit has the aim of pointing the relationship in the right direction. "Despite all the differences in historical experience and in our national characters, Germans and British have an excellent relationship." Through Nato, through Europe, the Britons and Germans have grown together in quite remarkable ways, said the President.

The Second World War and the Nazi past weigh on the President, but not because it burdens the Anglo-German relationship. Rather, it is the need to find a new language for the countries' collective memory. "The generation that personally experienced the war and the Nazi time is dying out... so we have a central task in Germany — to keep alive the memory of the dicta-

torship and the totalitarian state so that all future generations have the will and the ability to prevent a repetition."

To underline this point he recently awarded one of Germany's highest medals to Steven Spielberg, director of the film *Schindler's List*.

The key, he says, to securing the Anglo-German relationship is to "spark the curiosity" of the young. The President's trip includes several encounters with English and Scottish young people. A charity tennis match is planned between Boris Becker and Greg Rusedski, proceeds going to children in Northern Ireland.

Herr Herzog wants to take issue with one further cliché, this one propagated by the British broadsheets. In their view, Germany is a hopelessly rigid, overregulated and self-indulgent society. In fact, says the President, Germany has undergone rapid social and industrial change since he came to office in 1994. "I have made a good living out of being underestimated. That gives you a very good tactical position. I would recommend our British friends not to underestimate the Germans in a similar way."

Leading article, page 23
German supplement



Herzog: "I have made a good living out of being underestimated"

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Grey power tries to defrock 'mayoress'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN QUELLENDORF, GERMANY

TWO years ago the inhabitants of this small town in eastern Germany elected a mayor. They wound up with a "mayoress". Yesterday they were deciding whether they had been short-changed.

Norbert Lindner, 40, a father of two, faced a special election to remove him from office, brought by citizens who were outraged in June when he switched from trousers to dresses and began calling himself Michaela.

After years of repressing a desire to be a woman, Herr Lindner has confided, he began making furtive trips to the transvestite clubs of Frankfurt. Then, about a year ago, he began hormone treatments. In two years, he says, he will undergo a sex change operation. He has, he says, the support of his wife and two daughters. But yesterday it was the help of Quelendorf's 5,000 citizens that he needed. His main support seemed to be with younger voters, who like him because he built a social club. Older residents, who forced the poll, will need at least 30 per cent of the voters to sack him.

Herr Lindner has the support of his party, East Germany's former ruling communist-turned-socialist Party of Democratic Socialism, who called the vote "degrading discrimination". If Herr Lindner loses, he will leave Germany. "Queleendorf will become synonymous with either tolerance or intolerance," he said.

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Paris and Bonn at odds on fine print

GERMANY will end this week almost a year of lethargy on European affairs and push the fast-forward button. A bilateral summit with the French in Potsdam today begins a hectic phase of European diplomacy.

Employment and finance Ministers meet tomorrow to put the finishing touches to a "pact for jobs" and the preparation for the introduction of the euro in January is in full swing. Meanwhile, the German Government is dusting off ideas for a European constitution and considering ways of beefing up Europol, the cross-border police intelligence network.

Little of this is new or surprising. Apart from the jobs pact, most of Bonn's current European strategy could have been drafted by Helmut Kohl's unpopular guru, Joachim Bitterlich.

When the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, actually says something concrete — declaring, for example, the euro to be a first step to deeper political integration — listeners take note, although he quite plainly has no interest in a European superstate.

Herr Schröder is no great European visionary, but he has noted that the pace of change in Europe is suddenly being dictated by his rival, the Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, and the French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Indeed, for a few weeks after the election it seemed as if Herr Lafontaine had taken over France's European strategy lock, stock and barrel. Differences have since emerged and M Strauss-Kahn has adopted the role of tutor to his German colleague, explaining what can and cannot be done in Europe.

The appeals for fixed exchange-rate target zones, the public battering of central banks, has all but stopped. But French and German ministers are firm on tax harmonisation.

No wonder that Herr Schröder wants to put his

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

stamp on European policy as quickly as possible. On Wednesday he will set out the goals of the German presidency, which starts on January 1, and it is plain that by the close of play next summer institutional Europe will have undergone a remarkable transformation. But he cannot match Herr Lafontaine's intimacy with France.

President Chirac and his Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, remain strangers. The French President, for example, has taken a shine to Tony Blair's ideas for a European defence identity. Since the French view a British initiative on Europe as a contradiction in terms, M Chirac will try this week to broaden the move, making it a Franco-German-British plan. Herr Schröder has talked of a triple entente between Paris, Bonn and London — so why not start with a defence-foreign policy initiative and give it a certain Gallic flavour?

All the talk of centre-left communality in Europe has obscured the fact that France and Germany now approach Europe from entirely different positions. If the euro did not exist, there would hardly be anything left for Bonn and Paris to talk about.

The relationship aged quickly in the final year of Herr Kohl's reign and has yet to demonstrate that it is capable of regeneration. As soon as the Paris-Bonn dialogue shifts from grand projects to detail, the tone becomes cool and distant.

Britain to crown rebuilt Dresden church

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN President Herzog of Germany arrives at Windsor Castle tomorrow to begin a four-day state visit to Britain, he will be shown a potent symbol of reconciliation between two once-warring nations.

On display in the castle quadrangle will be an 18th-century gilded orb and cross, a gift from the British people in memory of one of the most devastating air raids of the war, and intended as the crowning glory of one of the biggest archaeological reconstruction projects ever attempted.

Weighing nearly two tonnes, the stainless steel and copper decoration will eventually be installed nearly 300ft above the ground in the centre of Dresden, the pinnacle of the rebuilt Frauenkirche, once a great Baroque church.

This weekend the decoration has been receiving its finishing touches in the central London workshops of Grant Macdonald, the goldsmith charged with making an exact copy of the original which was found, battered and bent, in the postwar ruins.

On the night of February 13, 1945, waves of British bombers under the direction of Arthur Harris razed the city known for its exquisite architecture as the Florence of the Elbe. Apart from the great loss of life, Dresden's destruction was one of the great cultural losses of the war.

One of its jewels was the Frauenkirche, completed in 1743 and with a stone dome rivalled in size only by those of



Grant Macdonald, a goldsmith, works on the new cross for the Dresden Frauenkirche, the Baroque masterpiece destroyed in February 1945

St Paul's in London and St Peter's in Rome. The blackened rubble of the church was left for decades as it fell, a memorial to Allied blitzkrieg.

After unification, the Federal Government in Bonn, in a gesture to the newly absorbed but poorer east, offered financial help to rebuild the church: the first individual donor was Helmut Kohl, the former Chancellor.

When completed in 2004, the project will have cost an estimated £100 million; less than

half having come from the German Government. Much of the rest is coming from private donations and charitable sources, including the British-based Dresden Trust, which

struction. Alan Russell, chairman of the Dresden Trust, said yesterday: "Of all Germany's historic cities, Dresden suffered the most. After re-unification, the German Government thought that the Frauenkirche was very deserving of a big gesture." Mr Russell's trust continues to collect money for the church. The orb and cross will tour several British cathedrals, beginning with Coventry next week, before being handed over to Dresden in 2000.



Allied bombing raids reduced Dresden to ruins

'Of all Germany's historic cities Dresden suffered the most'

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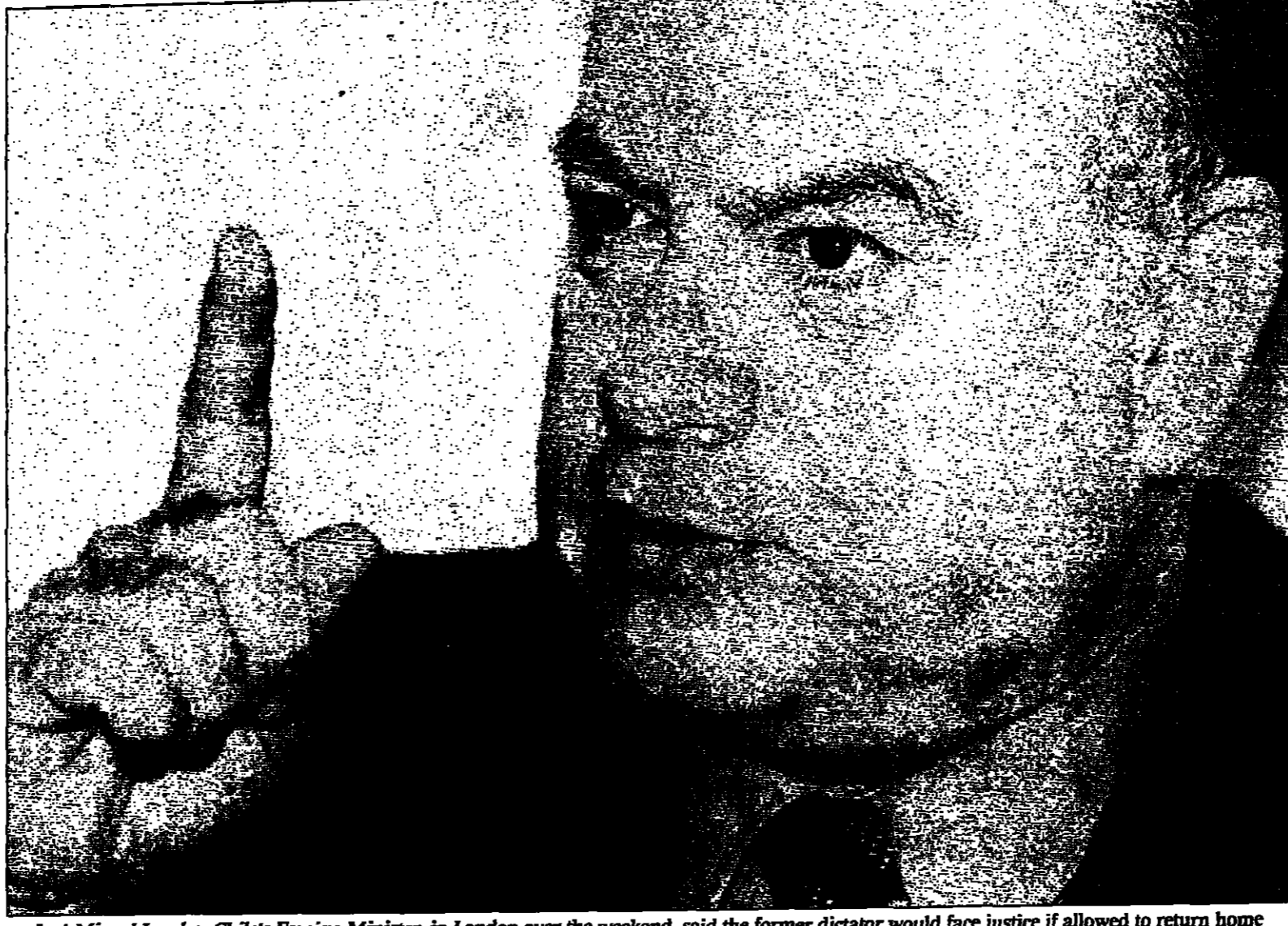
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Chile and Britain deny deal to free Pinochet

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE British and Chilean Governments denied yesterday that they had done a deal to release Augusto Pinochet from custody in exchange for a guarantee that he would face trial in Chile.

But as Jack Straw continued to consider whether to authorise extradition proceedings against the former dictator, senior ministers admitted that if it could be shown that General Pinochet would face justice on his return, criticism of any decision by the Home Secre-



José Miguel Insulza, Chile's Foreign Minister, in London over the weekend, said the former dictator would face justice if allowed to return home

STRAW'S DILEMMA

Downing Street said yesterday that there was no agreement with Chile and the position was unchanged from last week.

José Miguel Insulza, Chile's Foreign Minister, also denied that he was negotiating a deal. "I wouldn't say that we were making any deals or we're going through any negotiations. Actually we have not had negotiations saying 'give him back to us and we will try him'", he told BBC television.

The Conservatives yesterday backed Señor Insulza's call for General Pinochet to be allowed home to face trial. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Straw should use his discretion to bring the proceedings to an end.

It was entirely understandable that the Chilean Government felt that prolonged legal action in Britain was challenging Santiago's sovereignty. Lord Lamont, the former

Cabinet minister, also argued that the former dictator should be allowed to go home.

"I think that to extradite General Pinochet will be a signal to every other dictator in the world never to hand over power to democracy again," he said in an ITV interview with Jonathan Dimbleby.

Stressing his condemnation of torture and abuse of human rights, he said: "I think this is a matter for the Chilean Government and the Chilean people to settle. They have their own particular reasons for wanting to do so."

General Pinochet, 83, was arrested in a London clinic on October 16 following a request from two Spanish judges who want him to face charges of murder, torture and genocide.

He was granted bail on November 17 on condition that he remained under police guard, and is currently at a north London clinic where he is recovering from back surgery.

Although he denied that a deal was in the making, Señor Insulza said a trial in Chile offered the best hope of justice.

He had previously asked the British authorities to free the general because of his age and the poor state of his health.

"I believe, in Spain or in Britain or anywhere else, you would only get a symbolic justice because you'd never be able to find out or really investigate what really happened in Chile," Señor Insulza said.

Cartagena, Colombia: Ministers of defence from across the Americas were expected to focus on human rights as well as global arms issues at a three-day summit due to open here yesterday. Regional security was high on the agenda.

World terrorism and the drugs trade will also be discussed at the gathering, the

third of its kind since 1995. Colombia's Defence Minister Rodrigo Lloreda was due to open the event last night with a dinner for participants.

Participants at the summit included ministers from all major Latin nations and Canada, and some 300 aides and assistants. William Cohen, US Defence Secretary, was also there.

William Rees-Mogg, page 22

Santiago sceptical about trial at home

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN SANTIAGO

A TRIAL in Chile for General Augusto Pinochet on human rights charges has been ruled out by key figures in the country's judiciary, the Christian Democrat-led coalition Government, the still powerful armed forces, and the political Opposition.

News that José Miguel Insulza, the Foreign Minister, is in London negotiating a secret

LEGAL BARRIER

deal with the British Government that entails a trial of the general in Chile in exchange for his release, was received with incredulity in Santiago.

"What we could envisage, eventually, is that General Pinochet will no longer be allowed an active role in state affairs and that he spends the rest of his days with his grandchildren," said an official close to President Frei.

"But the likelihood of Chile ever bringing him to trial is non-existent. We have made a pact with the aged general to let him off in exchange for the modern and economically thriving nation we have inherited from him."

Similarly, right-wing and left-wing senators, military officials, and even opposition party representatives, reject the possibility of judging the former general in a Santiago court for abuses of human rights. "We have already compromised ourselves to turn a blind eye to errors that might have been committed during the military regime; there is no going back," said Senator Enrique Zúñiga, a former Supreme Court judge.

Politicians from all sides see Señor Insulza's proposal to consider trying the former dictator in his home country merely as a "last-ditch attempt to get the general home."

For General Pinochet to be tried in Chile, he would have to be stripped of the immunity against charges of human rights abuses that he enshrined in the Constitution before handing over power in 1990.

four zealous police, armed with radar guns, lay in wait for tourists and other drivers through to the Lake of the Ozarks, making the scenic route to Kansas City one exceeding the 45 mph speed limit as much as a mile was pulled over.

The limit dropped suddenly from 55 to 45 on a downhill stretch at either end of Mack's Creek. Slowing down quickly is tricky, almost dangerous. That was all motorists were fined for failing to slow a turn for grazing the white line on the roadside, for driving too close to a vehicle, and for overtaking.

British firms count cost of endangered contracts

By JOANNA BALE

BRITISH firms with investments in Chile are hoping that Jack Straw will resolve the political storm over General Pinochet as soon as possible.

BAT, the tobacco and finance giant, Unilever, the foods and household products company, Coats Viyella, the garments and textiles firm, and Royal & Sun Alliance, the insurance company, are among the major companies who fear their business will be affected

by the Chilean Government's anger at the House of Lords ruling that the former dictator could be extradited to Spain.

A spokesman for Royal & Sun Alliance, which last year spent £75 million on a 40 per cent stake in La Construcción, a Chilean insurance company, said: "We hope that the situation involving General Pinochet is resolved as quickly as possible."

Britain's exports to Chile totalled £210.5 million last year, and are dominated by specialised machinery and whisky. General Pinochet's

BUSINESS INTERESTS

supporters in Chile have already called an unofficial boycott of British goods such as whisky and English mustard. The UK runs a trade deficit with Chile amounting to £184 million in 1997 and £113 million so far this year.

The tense political situation has also forced the Royal Navy to cancel a visit by one of its frigates to the Chilean port of Valparaiso. Britain's honorary consul has also temporarily ceased her duties at the port. Chile's second largest city, where HMS Sutherland was to have joined a naval fair.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the frigate, with a crew of 174, was withdrawn from the Expo Naval fair at the suggestion of the Chilean authorities. The city's consulate — one of five that Britain has in Chile — was closed as a "continuing measure" following the increasing diplomatic and political row over moves to extradite General Pinochet to Spain. The Foreign Office said: "This is not a question of removing anybody or closing down consulate buildings or offices," said a Foreign Office spokesman. "This person lives and works in the area. But her office, as far as the British work she does, has been closed."

However, a trip to Chile by nearly 2,000 British Scouts will go ahead despite Foreign Office advice against non-essential travel. The teenagers are due to take part in a 10-day World Scout Jamboree in late December.

They have each paid £2,300 to join in the event, held in different parts of the world every four years. It will attract 28,000 Scouts from 140 countries.

Tony Burke, a tractor exporter, said he had lost a huge contract with Chile since the general's arrest. He said he viewed the Government's "incompetence" in getting embroiled in a situation with one of the UK's best trading partners in Latin America with disbelief.

NG MOTORIST could learn the fate of Mack's Creek without a deep sense of frustration. With a population of 272, it is on a back road of Missouri that is regarded as a nice little earner in issuing traffic tickets to the travelling public.

Four zealous police, armed with radar guns, lay in wait for tourists and other drivers through to the Lake of the Ozarks, making the scenic route to Kansas City one exceeding the 45 mph speed limit as much as a mile was pulled over.

The limit dropped suddenly from 55 to 45 on a downhill stretch at either end of Mack's Creek. Slowing down quickly is tricky, almost dangerous. That was all motorists were fined for failing to slow a turn for grazing the white line on the roadside, for driving too close to a vehicle, and for overtaking.

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Santiago sceptical about trial at home

FROM GABRIELLA IN SANTIAGO

TRIAL of Chilean... Santiago sceptical about trial at home

LEGAL BARRIERS

With the British... legal barriers

LEGAL BARRIERS

With the British... legal barriers

Texas police hunt death row fugitive

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A DRAGNET of 500 police and state troopers combed dense woods for a third day yesterday looking for a killer who made the first escape from death row in Texas since a member of Bonnie and Clyde's gang broke out 64 years ago.



Gurule: raced 75 yards under fire from guards

Bloodhounds, helicopters with night-sights, boats and mounted police were all pressed into the hunt for Martin Gurule, 29, who made a daring getaway under a hail of guards' bullets from the death row near Huntsville early on Friday. Six other inmates also making a break for freedom surrendered when the guards started shooting.

"It's just a matter of time before he's caught," said Larry Fitzgerald, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Officials directing the search were confident that Gurule was still in the rough, marshy woods. They set up a perimeter at the eight-mile mark, convinced he could not have run any further. The

searchers thought they had a solid lead when a homeowner four miles east of the prison fired shots at an intruder, but the man was not Gurule.

Officials said the fugitive was dangerous, although they had no reason to believe he was armed. He was sentenced to death for killing the owner and a chef at a restaurant during a robbery.

The escape plan was planned meticulously and staged at the end of the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday. At 8pm, the seven would-be escapers fashioned dummies out of pillows and

blankets and left them in their beds to fool the guards into thinking they were asleep. They donned long underwear they had dyed black with felt tip pens to make them more difficult to see in the dark.

At 8.15 they were let into a recreation yard, a privilege accorded to prisoners who work in a unique factory that is operated on death row in Texas. Before they were due back, they managed to pool back a portion of a chain-link fence, allowing them into another yard where they climbed on to a roof.

Unnoticed, they lay low for the next four hours until 12.20, when they crawled across the roof, jumped to the ground and tried to race across 75 yards to the perimeter fences. Tower guards noticed the movement and began firing, stopping all but Gurule in their tracks. He sprinted on, somehow clearing two 10ft fences topped with razor wire. There was no blood to indicate that the guards had winged him.

Texas has the busiest death row in America with 454 pri-



Mounted police and tracker dogs search near Huntsville, Texas, for Martin Gurule, 29, the state's first death-row inmate to escape for 64 years

soners, of whom 17 have been executed by lethal injection this year. An inquiry has been ordered into the escape. Initially it will focus on whether the men had inside help and if the prison was undermined because of the holiday.

Meanwhile, the escape had reporters dusting off records of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, a couple of backwoods bank robbers who were played by Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty in the 1967 film Bonnie and Clyde.

The couple broke into a prison near Huntsville in 1934 with guns blazing. They shot and killed two guards and released Barrow's cousin, Raymond Hamilton, who was serving a sentence of 263 years. He was recaptured and sentenced to death but escaped from death row before being caught again and executed.

In the meantime, Bonnie and Clyde, who by then had murdered 12 people and eluded many a posse, met their end when lawmen armed with sub-machine guns riddled the couple's bodies as they sat in a car on a lonely rural track.

As for the Gurule hunt, Mr Fitzgerald, the prison spokesman, explained why officials were so sure he would be found: "They make all sorts of plans for what might happen inside the prison. But then they find themselves standing outside in the woods and wonder what they should do next."

Speed trap puts town up the creek

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NO MOTORIST could learn the fate of Mack's Creek without a deep sense of satisfaction. With a population of 272, it is a dot on a back road of Missouri that worked up a nice little earner in issuing traffic tickets to the travelling public.

Four zealous police, armed with radar guns, lay in wait for tourists and others driving through to the Lake of the Ozarks or taking the scenic route to Kansas City. Anyone exceeding the 45 mph speed limit by so much as a mile was pulled over.

The limit dropped suddenly from 55 to 45 on a downhill stretch at either end of Mack's Creek. Slowing down quickly was tricky, almost dangerous. That was not all. Motorists were fined for failing to signal a turn, for grazing the white line at the roadside, for driving too close to another vehicle, and for overtaking.

Little old ladies, lorry drivers, families

— all were lucrative game. Patrol cars screeching after unsuspecting motorists left so many skid marks on the church car park that the vicar complained. Once an officer threatened to give the local grocer, George Palmer, a ticket for riding his horse with no rear light.

In one year, police wrote nearly 3,000 tickets. Fines were producing \$165,000 (£100,000) annually, three quarters of the town's revenue. Then one day the police stopped a state lawmaker, Delbert Scott.

Big mistake. Enraged, he pushed a new law through the Missouri legislature limiting the amount of income generated by traffic tickets to 45 per cent of a city's total revenue. Cheering lawmakers voted overwhelmingly for the measure.

Mr Scott said: "The place was a speed trap. There was nothing subtle about it. Everybody knew it was real highway rob-

bery." Today Mack's Creek is bankrupt. The radar guns and patrol cars have been sold or repossessed. The four police, their salaries paid by the fines, have been let go. City Hall has been turned into an old people's club. A state audit found fault with the city's books. About \$165,000 is owed to the Government. Tax authorities have seized the last \$8,500 in the city's bank account.

Local folk blame the former mayor, but he has not been charged with wrongdoing. Otherwise, everyone is happy. "We're better off without them," said Mr Palmer, who narrowly evaded arrest for suggesting where the police officer might install a rear light on the horse. "The police here didn't watch over the town. They watched the road and that's all they did." County police now patrol the road. But so far they have issued no tickets.

Quebec separatists expect victory

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA



Bouchard: favourite to win the Quebec election

VOTERS in Quebec go to the polls today in a provincial election that is expected to return the separatist Parti Québécois Government of Lucien Bouchard by a large majority, setting the stage for an early referendum on Quebec's sovereignty within two years.

Only a month ago, when the campaign began, observers fully expected Mr Bouchard's Government to be turfed out of office by the new Liberal leader, Jean Charest.

The federal business establishment in Canada had forced out the previous Liberal leader, Daniel Johnson, and replaced him with M Charest, the federal Conservative leader, who was seen as the Messiah who would defeat the separatist forces. But the 36-day election campaign was a disaster for the federalists from the outset; indeed, M Charest had not even wanted to return from Ottawa.

Mr Bouchard's social democratic administration was under pressure after slashing budgets and alienating the trade unions, but Mr Charest failed to exploit this. He offended the unions by promising Conservative reforms, modelled on Thatcherism and featuring hospital closures and reductions in welfare payments.

This allowed Mr Bouchard to patch up his differences with unions. When Mr Charest said: "It is time that Quebec changes direction," Mr Bouchard countered with a vow of stability and softened his party's separatist line. Mr Charest began the campaign five percentage points ahead of Mr Bouchard, but it gradually evaporated. He appeared to be an outsider, a federal politician who had spent 14 years in Ottawa and was unable to grasp the political subtleties of his native province.

In the latest poll, published Saturday, the Parti Québécois had 46.3 per cent of voters, the Liberals 41.5 per cent and the right-wing Action Démocratique had 11 per cent.

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WORLD IN BRIEF
Son held over 'lost' family

Rome: Police at Rome airport arrested a 36-year-old Italian man as he arrived on a flight from London and charged him with murdering his father, the late Italian politician and writer, Ferdinando Cossiga, who was identified in London in October. His father, Giuseppe, 62, was killed in August 1994 with his wife Maria, 56, and their 17-year-old son Nicola, 22. They left their home in Parma in a camper van and were never seen again.

Harare bar

Harare: President Mugabe has banned Zimbabwean unions from any kind of action against the government as he tries to end the economic crisis.

Rescue bid

Sydney: A rescue bid to save the Japanese shipwrecked in the Indian Ocean has failed.

icans haos

ANNEAPOLIS: A chaotic scene unfolded as thousands of Americans fled the city after a major earthquake.

Iraq trip

Baghdad: A group of British MPs has been allowed to visit Iraq to see the damage caused by the war.

India poll

Delhi: The results of the general election in India have been announced, with the Congress party winning a majority.

Turks die

Istanbul: A major earthquake has killed thousands of people in Turkey.

Drugs vote

London: A referendum on the issue of drug legalization has been held in a small town.

Bokassa's son falls from riches to rags

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE son of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the brutal African dictator who spent £10 million on his coronation as self-styled Emperor of the Central African Republic, is now homeless, jobless and penniless on the streets of Paris.

Charlemagne Bokassa, 28, is one of 30 children fathered by Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who was deposed in 1979 and later tried and imprisoned. The former Emperor was freed in 1993 and died in the Central African Republic's capital, Bangui, two years ago.

Charlemagne was seven when his father had himself proclaimed Emperor in the course of one of the most bloody and lavish regimes ever seen. The diamond, ruby and emerald crown created for



Bokassa spent £16 million on his own 'coronation'

Bokassa's wedding cost £2.5 million alone.

Charlemagne was educated in Switzerland and grew up in

palaces amid luxury as his father robbed his 'imperial subjects'. But when Bokassa was finally toppled, many members of his vast family, including Charlemagne, found themselves destitute.

He now lives at a homeless shelter known as The People's Palace, and spends his days in public parks, bus shelters and on Métro stations in Paris. He has no contact with his 13 brothers and 17 sisters by various mothers, and claims his relatives have swindled him out of a share in the stolen Bokassa fortune.

Charlemagne's unhappy existence was revealed at a Franco-African summit, attended by 34 African heads of state, came to an end in Paris: his fate a vivid illustration of how swiftly political fortunes can change in Africa, for even the most powerful despot.



Penniless Charlemagne Bokassa, one of 14 sons of Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the corrupt dictator who ruled the Central African Republic with terror before being overthrown in 1979, spends his days on the streets of Paris instead of in palaces in Africa and expensive schools in Switzerland

Annan brokers Congo ceasefire at Paris summit

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FELDING African states involved in the rebellion in the Democratic Republic of the Congo agreed to a ceasefire at the Franco-African summit in Paris over the weekend, although rebels attempting to overthrow Laurent Kabila, the Congo Republic's President, yesterday vowed to continue fighting.

Late on Saturday, President Chirac of France announced that Uganda, Rwanda and Congo had agreed to end hostilities, with a preliminary agreement to be signed around December 8.

Rwanda and Uganda are backing the insurgency, while Zimbabwe, Angola, Chad and Namibia have supported President Kabila in the four-month conflict.

The Congolese rebels were not formally invited to the summit, but a rebel observer was sent to Paris. The ceasefire was brokered by Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, after protracted negotiations which M Chirac described as tense but not hostile. "They committed themselves to accepting an immediate end to hostilities," Mr Annan said, before adding sceptically: "I hope they do not change their minds at once."

Mr Kabila, who came to power last year and renamed Zaire the Democratic Republic of Congo after toppling veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, spoke to a supporters' rally outside his Paris hotel on Saturday night and called for Uganda and Rwanda to withdraw support for the insurgents, who already control most of northeast Congo.

The rebels, made up of disaffected army units and ethnic Tutsi insurgents, have accused Mr Kabila of tribalism and corruption. The Congolese President has also been accused of human rights abuses, but France stressed that he was protected by diplomatic immunity while in Paris.

Genocide warning: A UN commission has detailed the "profoundly shocking" rebirth of the Hutu army that massacred hundreds of thousands of people in Rwanda in 1994 (writes James Bone in New York). The four-member commission of inquiry, set up to investigate breaches of a UN arms embargo clamped on the Rwanda Hutu forces after they were driven from power, said the Hutu extremists had become a "significant component" in President Kabila's alliance against Tutsi rebels.

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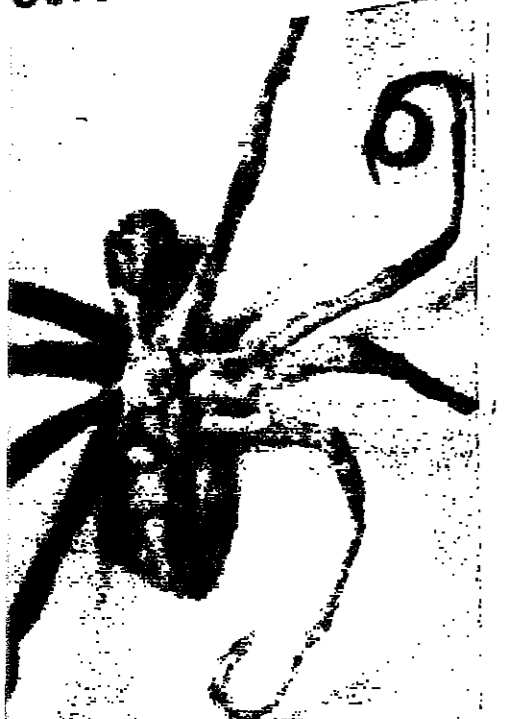
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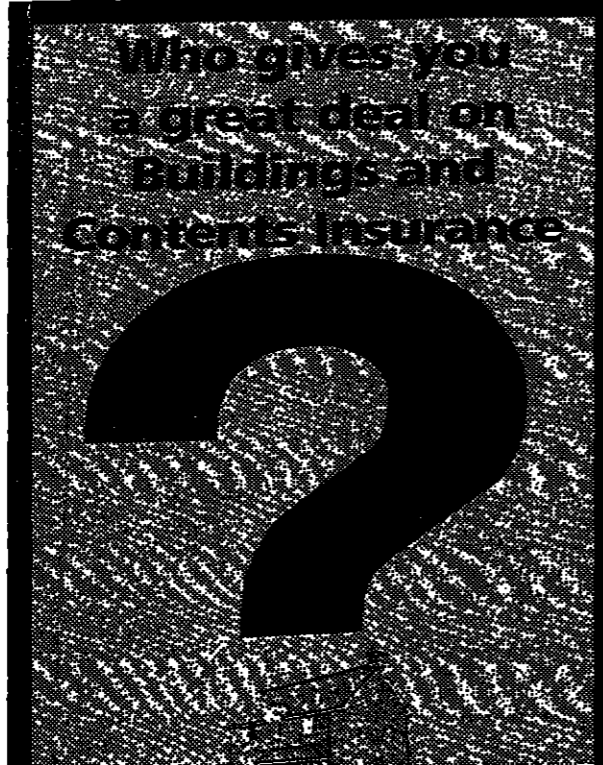
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THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM

Global meltdown — unless we

The financial crisis that originated in Thailand in 1997 is particularly unnerving because of its scope and severity. We at Soros Fund Management could see a crisis coming and so could others, but the extent of the dislocation took everyone by surprise. A number of latent and seemingly unrelated imbalances were activated and their interaction touched off a process whose results are entirely out of proportion with the ingredients that went into creating it.

The financial markets played a role that is very different from the one assigned to them by economic theory. Financial markets are supposed to swing like a pendulum. They may fluctuate wildly in response to shocks, but eventually they are supposed to come to rest at an equilibrium point. Instead, financial markets have behaved like a wrecking ball, swinging from country to country and knocking over the weaker ones.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the international financial system itself constituted the main ingredient in the meltdown process. It certainly played an active role in every country, although the other ingredients varied from country to country. Financial markets do not just passively reflect economic reality. The role that financial markets play in the world ought to be radically reconsidered.

To see why, let us look at what has happened. The most immediate cause of trouble in 1997 was the manner in which currencies were managed. The

CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

George Soros

In the first extract from his book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, the controversial financier issues a warning that the world's financial system is set for a complete breakdown — and only co-operation and reforms on an international scale can prevent it

PART ONE

South-East Asian countries maintained an informal arrangement that tied their currencies to the US dollar. It was a situation similar in some respects to the ERM.

The apparent stability of the link to the dollar encouraged local banks and businesses to borrow in dollars and then convert dollars into local currencies, without insuring against the risk of the local currencies going down in value. The banks then lent or invested in local projects, particularly real estate. This seemed to be a riskless way of making money as long as the local currencies maintained their link to the dollar.

But the arrangement came under pressure because the two biggest economies in the area, China and Japan, had currencies which were out of sync with the dollar. The Chinese currency was undervalued, and the yen fell. The balance of trade suffered in South-East Asia. By the beginning of 1997 it was clear to us

at Soros Fund Management that the position was becoming untenable. If it was clear to us in January 1997 that the situation was untenable, it must have been clear to others. Yet the crisis did not break out until July 1997 when the Thai authorities abandoned the peg to the dollar and floated their currency. In crude terms, it was their Black Wednesday.



Global perspective: "The breakdown of the capitalist system could be prevented by the intervention of international financial authorities," says George Soros

It's difficult to escape the fact that the system itself was the main reason for the crisis

HOW THE MARKETS MADE IT WORSE
It is not just currency speculation that creates problems, but the nature of investment. Institutional investors do not generally measure their performance in absolute terms but relative to each other. They operate as a herd, following the latest trend. Hedge fund managers and others who speculate with borrowed money play a similar role. When they are on a winning

streak, they can increase their bets; when they lose they are forced to sell to reduce their debt. Options, hedges and other derivative instruments have a similar self-reinforcing quality about them.

But it was not only foreign investors who influenced the situation. In the countries where the local currency was pegged to the dollar, indigenous banks assumed the peg would hold and unwisely failed to insure against it going. When the peg broke they found themselves exposed. They scrambled for cover, and put tremendous pressure on the local currencies. As the currencies nosedived this caused a sudden deterioration in the balance sheets of local borrowers. This, together with foreign investors fleeing from declining markets, set up a self-rein-

The financial markets caused the panic to spread — just like a modern bubonic plague

forcing process that resulted, for example, in a 42 per cent decline in the Thai currency and a 59 per cent decline in the Thai stock market between June 1997 and August 1998.

Financial markets caused this panic to spread: some have referred to this financial contagion as a modern version of the bubonic plague. Other countries in Asia had apparently strong economies, the Malaysian trade deficit was modest and the fundamentals in Indonesia seemed quite sound but it was not long before they were hit, and the crisis forced Thailand/then Korea, then Indonesia to seek the assistance of the IMF.

But the IMF programmes did not work. Perhaps, because the IMF had developed its techniques for dealing with problems caused by imprudent governments, its understanding of how financial markets operate left much to be desired. The correct solution to the crisis would have been to convert debts in the stricken countries into equity, giving creditors a share stake in the vulnerable concerns. But international creditors would have balked, and without their co-operation no rescue programme can succeed. Obviously the problem is with the system, and the IMF is part of the problem, not part of the solution. The IMF is now in a crisis of its own. Market confidence has been an essential ingredient to its past success and it has now lost credibility.

From Asia, the wrecking ball of bubonic plague, has hit Russia and Brazil, damaging Eastern Europe and devastating Ukraine on the way. The international crisis appeared to reach a climax in 1997. Foreign banks refused to roll-over their loans to Asian banks, Central banks had to intervene and force commer-

'Hope made me feel insecure, worrying made me feel safe'

As a fund manager, I depended a great deal on my emotions. That was because I was aware of the inadequacy of my knowledge. The predominant feelings I operated with were doubt, uncertainty and fear. I had moments of hope, even euphoria, but they made me feel insecure. By contrast, worrying made me feel safe. So the only genuine joy I experienced was when I discovered what I had to worry about.

By and large, I found managing a hedge fund extremely painful. I could never acknowledge my success because that might stop me from worrying, but I had no trouble in recognising my mistakes. It is wise to be constantly looking for the fly in the ointment.

When I set up my foundation to advance the aims of the open society in Eastern Europe, I took a new approach. I subordinated the interests of the foundation personnel and of the individual applicants to the mission of the foundation. I used to joke that ours was the only misanthropic foundation in the world.

I remember telling my staff in Czechoslovakia in 1991 that foundations were hothouses of corruption and inefficiency, and that I would consider it a greater accomplishment to have the courage to wind up a failed foundation than to have the vanity to set up a new one. I

also remember telling a gathering of staff in Prague that networking means not working. I have mellowed with time. There is a difference between running a hedge fund and running a charitable foundation. Heading a large foundation requires people skills, and people do not like critical remarks. They want praise and encouragement. Not many people share my predilection for identifying error and even fewer share my joy in it.

I used to find public expressions of praise and gratitude positively painful. But I have come to realise that this is a reflex left over from the days when I was actively managing money, when I had to be guided by the results of my actions, not by what other people thought of them.

I am still embarrassed by gratitude and I still believe that philanthropy, if it is deserving of praise, should put the interests of society ahead of ego gratification. But I am willing to accept praise because my foundation has now met this condition.

Whether it can continue to function properly, given my changed attitude towards praise, is a question that troubles me. But as long as I am troubled, the answer will probably still be yes. Worrying is the key to success.



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Capitalism on the edge: the crisis

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THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM

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The system is inherently flawed

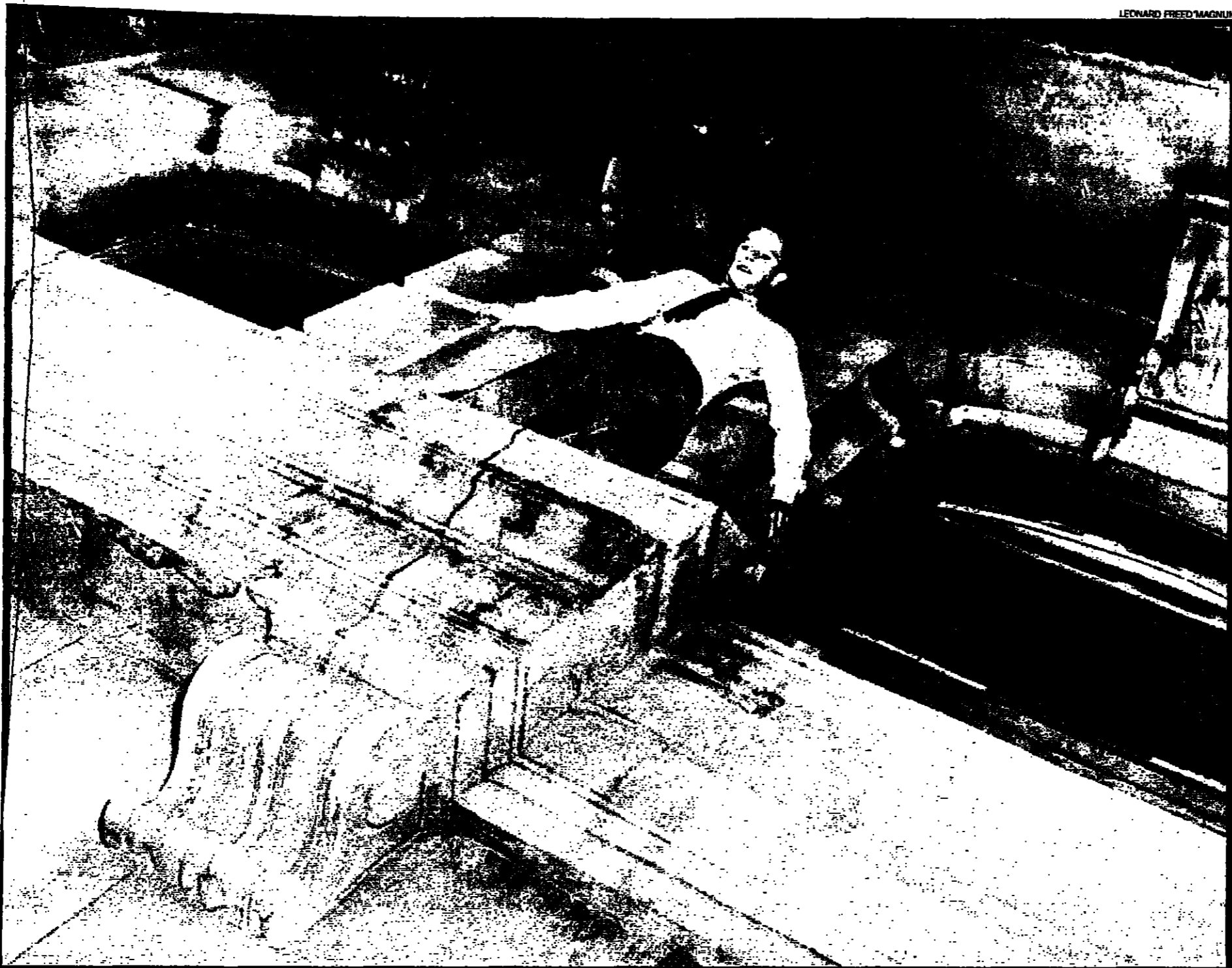
Strange as it may seem for someone who has made his reputation and his fortune in the very practical world of business, my financial success and my political outlook have rested largely on a number of abstract philosophical ideas. One of them is my distrust of social sciences.

There is a prevailing belief that economic affairs are subject to irresistible laws, like supply and demand, that are comparable to the natural laws of physics. This belief is false. What is more important, decisions and structures that are based on this belief are destabilising economically and dangerous from a political point of view. I am convinced that the market system, like every other human arrangement, is inherently flawed. This conviction lies at the foundation of this book's entire analysis, as well as of my personal philosophy and of my funds' financial success.

Economic analysis cannot have the same validity as the physical sciences. But the most important reason for the failure of economic analysis — and for the inevitable instability of all social and political institutions that assume the absolute validity of market economics — is not properly understood. The failures of economics are not simply due to our imperfect understanding of economic theory or to a lack of adequate statistics. These problems could, in principle, be remedied by better research. But economic analysis, and the free-market ideology that it supports, are subverted by a far more fundamental and irredeemable flaw.

Economic and social events, unlike the events that preoccupy physicists and chemists involve thinking participants and not molecules. And thinking participants can change the rules of economic and social systems by virtue of their own ideas about these rules. The claims of economic theory to universal validity become untenable once this principle is properly understood. People can operate in a way that bucks the rules. This is not just an intellectual curiosity. For if economic theories are not scientifically valid — and never can be — the entire ideology of market fundamentalism is undermined. I have to confess that I am not familiar with the prevailing theories about efficient markets and rational expectations. I consider them irrelevant and I never bothered to study them because I seemed to get along quite well without them — which was perhaps just as well, judging by the recent collapse of the hedge fund Long Term Capital Management (LTCM).

The fund's managers aimed to profit from the application of modern equilibrium theory, and its strategies were inspired by the joint winners of the 1997 economics Nobel Prize, who won their prize for their theoretical work on options pricing. The fact that some successful participants in financial markets have found modern theories, supposedly explaining how financial markets function, completely useless may be considered a scathing criticism in itself. But the failure of LTCM is much more conclusive. I have no quarrel with economics itself, as far as it goes, except that it does not go far enough.



Capitalism on the edge: the crisis in today's global economy has not reached 1929 proportions — but unless urgent action is taken we could see a return to the conditions of the 1930s

cial banks to renew their loans. Soon afterwards the crisis started to ease. Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, made it clear that the Asian troubles ruled out any possibility of an interest rate rise and the markets took heart.

It was a false dawn. The financial collapse has been followed by economic decline in Asia and elsewhere. Domestic demand came to a standstill and imports shrank, but exports did not expand because a high proportion of the exports were directed towards countries that were also affected. Semiconductors were particularly hard hit.

THERE IS WORSE TO COME

I realised that the music had stopped, and I said so at the time, but I seriously underestimated the severity of the problem. The disintegration of the global capitalist system will prevent a recovery, turning the recession into a depression. I have three main rea-

The current false dawn will be followed by a prolonged bear market — just like the 1930s

sons. One is that the Russian meltdown has revealed previously ignored laws in the international banking system. Banks engage in transactions and trade among each other and with their clients which do not show up on their balance sheets. When Russian banks defaulted, Western banks remained on the hook both on their own account and on behalf of clients. Hedge funds and other speculative accounts also sustained large losses. Banks are now frantically trying to limit their exposure, deleverage and reduce risk.

Their own stocks have plummeted and a global credit crunch is in the making.

Second, the pain at the periphery, in Asia, Russia and elsewhere, has now become so intense that individual countries have begun to opt out of the global capitalist system. First Indonesia, then Russia, suffered a pretty complete breakdown. What happened in Malaysia and in Hong Kong is in some ways even more ominous. The collapse in Indonesia and Russia was unintended, but Malaysia shut itself off from international capital markets deliberately. Its action has brought temporary relief to the Malaysian economy and allowed its rulers to maintain themselves in power but, by reinforcing a general flight of capital from the periphery, it has put additional pressure on those countries that are trying to keep their markets open.

If the capital flight makes Malaysia look good in comparison with its neighbours, the policy may easily find imitators.

The third major factor working for the disintegration of the global capitalist system is the evident inability of the international monetary authorities to hold it together. IMF programmes do not seem to be working and the IMF has run out of money. The response of the G7 governments to the Russian crisis was woefully inadequate, and the loss of control was quite scary.

Financial markets are rather peculiar. They resent any kind of government interference but they hold a belief deep down that if conditions

get really rough the authorities will step in. This belief has now been shaken. How events will unfold depends largely on the response of the banking system, the investing public, and the authorities at the centre. The range of probabilities lies between a cascading decline of the stock markets and a more drawn-out process of deterioration. I think the latter more likely.

The public has learned that it pays to buy during dips to what has been an everlasting bull market. But it will take time before it discovers that the bull market does not last forever. Thus it will take time for the three main negative forces to make their effect felt.

The current false dawn will be followed by a prolonged bear market, just as in the 1930s and in Asia currently. The public will stop buying dips and start moving out of stocks. The wealth effect will take its toll and consumer demand will decline. Investment demand will also decline, for a number of reasons: profits are under pressure, imports are rising and exports falling, and the supply of capital for the less well established enterprises and for real estate has dried up.

Reductions in interest rates will cushion the market decline. The economy would eventually recover if the global capitalist system held together. But the chances of it falling apart have greatly increased. If and when the United States' domestic economy slows down, the willingness to tolerate a large trade deficit will decrease and free trade may be endangered. The US is also looking increasingly inward. The refusal of Congress to provide additional funds for the IMF may play the same role today as the Smoot-Hawley tariff did in precipitating the Great Depression.

Once, I thought that the Asian crisis would lead to the ultimate triumph of capitalism. Multinational corporations would replace family concerns and the Asian model would then be assimilated into the global capitalist model. It is now more likely that countries at the periphery of the system, in Asia, will increasingly opt out of the system altogether as their prospects for attracting capital from the West fade away. It is often said that revolutions devour their own children, and the political changes in Asia which have seen tyrants fall may not leave the current reformers in charge. Already, anti-American, anti-IMF, anti-foreign resentment is building up throughout Asia, including in Japan.

The problems will become progressively intractable the longer they are allowed to fester

Electoralism in Indonesia could well produce a nationalist, Islamic government inspired by the ideas of Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian premier. Banks and investors have suffered severe losses and there are more to come. Russia is likely to default on its dollar obligations. Losses in Indonesia will also have to be recognised. Banks are being punished by shareholders for their exposure to the periphery. They will not want to increase their commitments.

Only international governmental action could pump money into the periphery, but there is no sign of international co-operation. I can already discern the makings of the final crisis. It will be political in character. Indigenous political movements are likely to arise that will seek to expropriate multinational companies and recapture the "national" wealth. Some of them may succeed in the manner of the Boxer Rebellion or the Zapata Revolution. Their success may shake the confidence of financial markets, engendering a self-reinforcing process.

The breakdown of the global capitalist system could be prevented by the intervention of the international financial authorities at any time. The prospects are dim because the G7 has just failed to intervene in Russia, but the consequences of that failure may serve as a wake-up call.

There is an urgent need to rethink and reform capital-

ism. The problems will become progressively more intractable the longer they are allowed to fester.

Excerpted from *The Crisis of Global Capitalism* by George Soros, published by Little, Brown (RRP £17.99). Readers of *The Times* can buy this title for just £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134 459.

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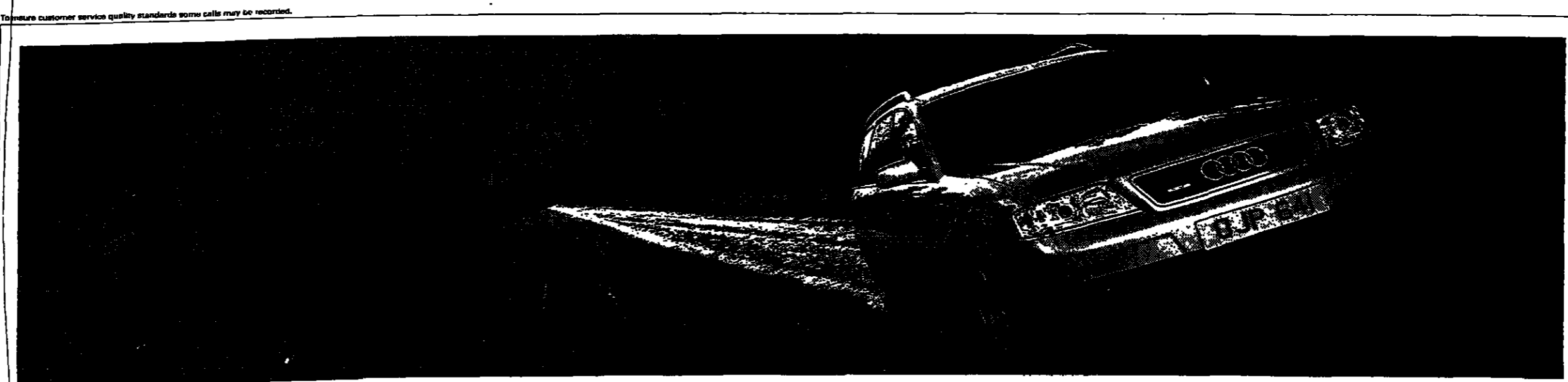
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Why is it padded sells?



ABOVE: White puffed fleece hooded top, £140, by Marithé-Françoise Girbaud at Urban Outfitters, 36-38 Kensington High Street W8 (0171-781 1001). Sleeveless puffa, £34.99, by Oasis, 292 Regent Street W1 (01865 881986).

RIGHT: Cream padded long sleeve jumper, £565, and cream cotton padded skirt from about £500, both available from Jill Sander at Browns, 24 South Molton Street W1 (0171-614 0051)

Padding, you may have noticed, is all around: not simply on small children on whom it looks adorable: not only in the kind of adventure-training emporia where essential accessories veer towards the Primus stove and triple-strength water-filter end of the market, nor even only in the groovier niches of the high street. They're all using it: Ghost has beautiful long, embroidered, quilted coats and fitted jackets in shimmering satins that take the genre into a feminine, decorative zone; Jill Sander has downy-soft, white, padded T-shirts and skirts that mould snugly onto the body, thanks to cunningly constructed seams; Miu Miu heat-sealed layers of synthetic fabrics together for quilted warmth without bulk. Helmut Lang's collection of cocooning jackets and coats and feather-filled wraps, complete with useful shoulder straps,



was so hip that, for the moment, it has sold out. That padded clothes are warm is not in dispute. That they look suitably urban and speedy and modern is also unarguable. But the bottom line, literally in some instances, is whether they are flattering. The answer is... it depends what you mean by flattering. As a skirt, padding is probably best left in the concept stage. But as an outer layer it is hard to fault. Indeed, working on the homeopathic principle of treating like with like, slipping on a fat, puffy coat should make a body with similar features look instantly smaller by comparison. Just think what it can do for a slim one.

The obvious way to wear padding is to do the whole sporty thing: techno shoes, Velcro trousers, full frontal belly button and so on. A few weeks ago in New York, however, I saw an Inès de la Fressange-type creature click-clacking along the Upper West side in a black, calf-length padded coat from Club Monaco with bare legs (it was 9C but expanses of naked flesh in freezing temperatures have become a sort of rite of passage in New York) and—here's the cincher—kitten-heeled slingbacks. Chicer than that I have not seen.

Kicking the habit



I MAY have come up with the perfect cold-turkey antidote for anyone trying to wean themselves off a serial-saunter habit. Hurry along to your nearest sample sale. These are hideous ordeals where designers chuck piles of prototypes, catwalk left-overs and returned orders into cardboard boxes and sell them at a fraction of the retail price. They are not pleasant affairs, there are usually no changing rooms and they tend to highlight the human race's baser instincts. But recently more and more are moving their sales to huge venues and inviting everyone. This is an important factor in the success of outlet villages—very few people want to pay full price these days. However, I guarantee that after a few sessions of creased clothes, sawdust floors and obscene tugs of war over the last cashmere funnel neck, you will be scurrying back to the serenity of your local highly priced



store. It's amazing how you can fall in love with a midnight blue velvet evening dress one minute and out the next, when you spot another 300 sprawling out of tatty tearaways. On the other hand, everyone should see designer clothes without the candles, grandiose plinths and reverence that do so much to make them look fabulous, if only because it's a sobering lesson in how much context counts in making clothes desirable. And if something looks good squashed on to a plastic hanger in a warehouse, it's probably a winner. The next sale is Nicole Farhi on Wednesday at the Royal Horticultural Hall, 80 Vincent Square SW1. Only those in sales rehab should go.

POVERTY chic is certainly modish—but at a cost. Kate Winslet's banger and mash wedding reception and Me+Mathews's coda in last week's *Sunday Times*, claiming that she, too, some times wears M&S and Top Shop, are merely the latest manifestations. The fashion stylists who live around North Kensington, Queen's Park and Kensal Green have been referring to their stamping ground as Kilburn (top mark on the grime scale) for ages. Except that what with Nick Kent and Emmi Thompson drooping half of Holly wood into investing in the Tricycle Theatre and Brent muttering about smartening up the high street, Kilburn is in danger of no longer being quite so dingy, outé. It is wreaking havoc with the fashionista's Smythson address cards.



ABOVE: Mini dress, £260, and matching heat-sealed pocket and popper coat, £360, by Miu Miu, 123 New Bond Street W1 (0171-409 0900). Scarf, £230, by Issey Miyake at Liberty



RIGHT: Puffa, £69, and poloneck, £49.95, by Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street W1 (0171-461 4434). Fleece A-line skirt, £149, by Boyd at Browns, Sheepskin puffa bag, £200, by Bill Arberg, 10 Chepstow Road W2 (0171-727 3560)

Photographer: JOHN SWANNELL
Stylist: Deborah Brett
Hair: Debbie Horgan for Jo Hansford
Make-up: Yvva Axelsson
Model: Miele at Select
Shot on location at Kenwood House, Hampstead, with thanks to English Heritage

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 1998

Kicking the habit FASHION DIARY

...come up with the perfect... anyone trying... serial-saboteur... along to your... These are hideous... designers chuck piles of... card-board boxes and re... of the retail price... there are... rooms and they... more and more... to huge... This is an impor... outlet village... people want to pay full... However, I guarantee... of crease... last customer's bin... highly priced

How to edit your wardrobe



Style consultant Annabel Hodin at work: "Mistakes are fine, you just don't have to wear them"

Until Wednesday there was a rogue plastic hanger in my wardrobe along with quite a lot of clothes. It isn't there any more - nor are most of the clothes. But for a while it was the cause of blushing humiliation. This was because for five minutes three people studied it so intently that it might as well have been a fascinating new strain of E.coli. The photographer choked. I issued all sorts of disclaimers of the good-God-how-did-that-get-there variety. The style consultant flicked it delicately on to the floor. Flicking, as it turned out, was the order of the day - straight into the rubbish bin. Letting Annabel Hodin loose on the inner sanctum of my clothing empire was not meant to happen. The idea was that Hodin would talk me through her job and explain how other people go astray. But one minute she was sitting with impeccable ram-rod posture on my sofa telling me how she had got into the business in the first place (Jane - as in Asher - had called her to say that Gerald - as in Scarfe - was going on television in Los Angeles in approximately two minutes' time and could Annabel - as in ex-model and fashion stylist - please find him something decent to wear?). The next minute she had flung open my closet doors and told me that the hanging space didn't work. I didn't want to hear this, but that's what happens with consultants. One moment they're making all the right soothing sort of references, admiring your Hepburnesque traits, the next it's a rather cunning: "I see you had your Spice Girls moment, then."



Lisa Armstrong's streamlined wardrobe after a severe "editing"

Fashion Editor Lisa Armstrong invites a style consultant to sort through her wardrobe; now it's almost bare

...little whelping noises that translate roughly as "Why, Lisa? Why?" - you realise that you have just hung up your soul for general inspection. Yet increasingly people are doing so, despite the cost - Hodin charges about £900 a day (the price of a designer suit). Which is why, as well as showing Dame Kiri Te Kanawa her way round an Armani evening dress, Hodin has introduced businessness to the delights of an "intelligently" cut suit. Intelligence is a favourite Hodin word; so is integrity.

TEN STEPS TO WARDROBE NIRVANA

- 1. Work out what you look best in and make sure that you buy the best possible versions of it in future.
2. If a skirt comes with a cardigan, buy both - trying to match separates from different shops and designers is time-consuming.
3. Arrange for shops to hold something for you for a day; a cooling-off period should eliminate the worst mistakes.
4. Get clothes cleaned as soon as they are soiled. If marks are left too long they may become indelible.
5. Invisible Menders: 161 Gloucester Rd, SW7 (0171-373 0514).
6. Don't hang knits, they stretch. Fold them in drawers. Feed hangers in beneath clothes to avoid stretching necklines.
7. Do up all buttons so that clothes keep in shape.
8. Use foam or wooden shoe trees on springs. And eliminate white deodorant stains on dark, sleeveless clothes by using Vicry anti-perspirant.
9. Find the right hangers for the job and check that the tips are not causing weird deformities on shoulder lines.
10. Revive leather handbags with Nivea cream.
Annabel Hodin can be contacted on 0171-722 4648/0836 754079.

makes getting dressed every day much easier. The way she talks about clothes - "that's a subtle, intellectual colour" or "that beading has absolutely nothing to do with the shape of that dress" - demystifies a daunting process. She clearly has innate style, but she has also given her subject a great deal of thought and, in the process, codifies and rationalises it. "I make as many mistakes as anyone," she says, "but the important thing is to recognise them and move on. It's not exactly a science, but I really do think one can be educated into style." I won't pretend that it's an unalloyed pleasure having someone highlight your vanities and self-deceptions, or that witnessing hundreds of pounds of delusion being junked is the most amusing thing that's happened all week. It would be mildly comforting to discover that she doesn't like fashion, but she loves it. "Part of my job is to provide the now in what people wear. But you really have to study fashion and absorb only the bits that are right for you - the classics. Anything too gimmicky I would skip. The problem with most people is that they look at a fashion picture and think 'Lovely, cashmere trousers'. They don't stop to think that there's a reason why the model is sitting down - namely that she would look like an elephant if she stood up." By the second rail, things were looking up. Silently chanting "frothy, solid, trees... perfect". I was mercilessly eliminating items by myself. Although my initial reaction at seeing roughly 40 per cent of my wardrobe edited into oblivion was one of panic, I knew that she was right. Almost everything she discarded I had either not worn for a while, didn't really like, or liked even though I knew they were unflattering. What most impressed me was her ability to grasp nuances that and the way she identifies what clients are trying to achieve, and suggests how to do so in a streamlined way. My wardrobe is now much emptier and devastatingly efficient. Hodin has an aesthete's view on possessions: quality not quantity. "If you buy the right thing in the first place, you don't need fall-backs." I cannot lie: after her visit I was torn between thinking a world without mistakes is a pretty sterile place, and reveling in the new space. And the more I look at the space, the more I find myself agreeing with Hodin. "Mistakes are fine, you just don't have to wear them."

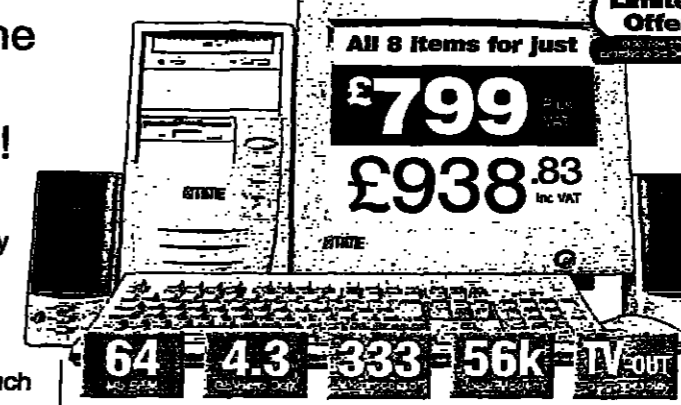
INS AND OUTS

AVOID the tie, soap and cookery book this year and instead visit the Atlas Studio Gallery for a Christmas exhibition (all items are for sale) of original vintage photographs depicting travel throughout the world from the 19th and early 20th centuries. There are photographs to suit a multitude of interests from exploration - with photographs documenting expeditions to Mount Everest and the North and South Poles - to rare images of African tribal gatherings and Red Indian squaws wrapped in handwoven fringed textiles. To the Ends of the Earth, from December 3 until January 15, at the Atlas Studio Gallery, 55-57 Tabernacle Street, London EC2. For a catalogue, call 0171-490 4540.

bands on Joseph's bags gave them a Nineties identity, while Prada's classic blue-on-white always causes a stir. But each year Fogal, the luxury hostery company, commissions artists to create a shopping bag, including Allen Jones, Nicola De Maria, Michael Sowa and Erté. This year the German artists Kocheisen + Hullman have gone one step further by inventing a bag that doubles as an advent calendar, which has 25 doors, each revealing an exquisite illustration. Free with any purchase; £5 without. Fogal, 36 New Bond Street, WI (0171-493 0900).

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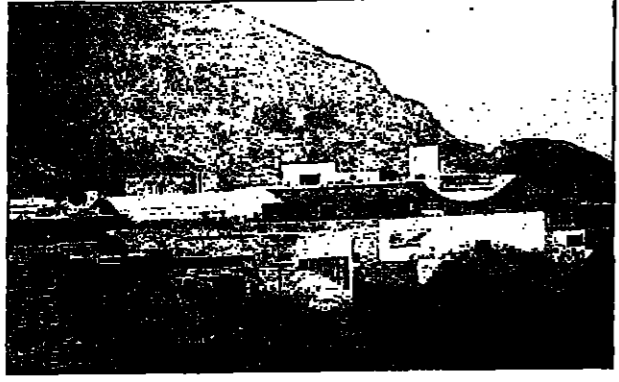
MUSIC

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
Icelandic maiden: Björk in Birmingham
FACING PAGE



Scotland's new tower of strength



Today the Queen opens the new Museum of Scotland in the very heart of Edinburgh. Magnus Linklater reports

Today, St Andrew's Day, the Queen will open the new Museum of Scotland — the first national museum to be built in Britain for 120 years. It is, though no one will believe it, a coincidence that Scotland's new Parliament and Scotland's new national museum will open their doors within six months of each other. One has been a gleam in the eye for nearly 300 years, the other has been on the drawing board for the best part of 50. Both have come good together, and you will find it hard to convince the Scots that some unseen political hand has not been at work.

The royal reaction to the museum's most distinctive feature, a soaring round tower with polished sandstone and fortress-like walls, will be particularly interesting. The Prince of Wales resigned as president of the patrons because he was not consulted about the architects; the Duke of Edinburgh, who inspected a model of the building a year later, pointed to the tower and demanded: "What's that? Looks like a gasometer."

I suspect he will change his mind when he sees the finished product. The architect Gordon Benson and his partner Alan Forsyth have not only recognised the historic significance of the city in which they are building, they have virtually incorporated it into the design. The phrase "borrowed landscape" was first coined in China to describe how the landscape surrounding a garden should form part of the overall design.

The same is true of the museum, which reflects the city in which it is set. The tower echoes the halfmoon battery of Edinburgh Castle. Its tall central structure borrows from the tenement buildings of the Old Town. When you come to the 17th-century section, a big window opens on to Greyfriars

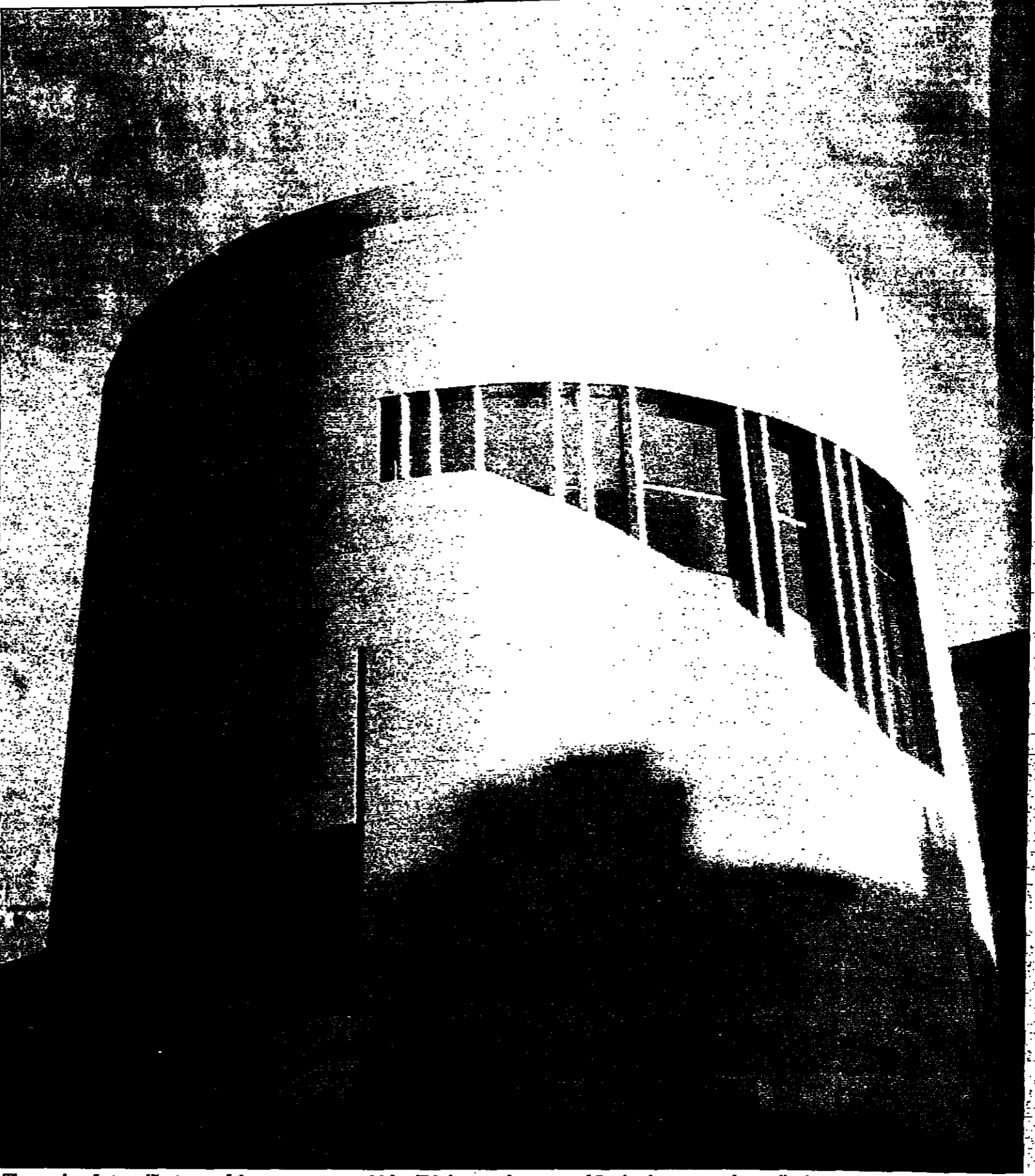
Kirk, where the National Covenant was signed in 1638, and the Jacobite section looks out on to Arthur's Seat, beneath which Bonnie Prince Charlie entered the city in 1745.

But this is not just a pastiche of the city. It is modern, uncompromising, monumental in concept and scope. It will not please everyone, but already those who have seen it agree that it is one of the most important new buildings in Britain. Not surprisingly, what some people thought of as an extension to the existing National Museum in Chambers Street has become a triumphantly separate structure. You can enter it from the old building, but you will more likely be drawn to the main door opening on to the street.

"The concept is independent of its location," says Mark Jones, the director of the National Museums of Scotland. "It says something about Scotland and its history which is exciting and surprising."

Some of the treasures it will house have not been seen before, others were displayed in the cramped quarters of the National Museum of Antiquities in Queen Street. They include some of Scotland's most precious objects — the Monymusk Reliquary, the jewelled casket which held St Columba's bones and which accompanied Robert the Bruce into battle; the St Fillans Crozier, dating back to the earliest years of Christianity in Britain; the fabulous Hunterston Brooch, which is Hiberno-Saxon; the Celtic Dupplin Cross which goes back to the dark ages when the Picts, about whom we know so little, were converted to Christianity.

They will be complemented by modern sculptures and works by such artists as Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and Andy Goldsworthy. Beginning with prehistory in the basement



The soaring, fortress-like tower of the new museum, which will bring together many of Scotland's most precious relics in the shadow of Arthur's Seat

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Truly religious experience

It is Mahler really the quintessential Viennese figure he is often made out to be? Some answers may yet be provided by the Philharmonia Orchestra's *Mahler and Vienna — Beginning and Endings* series. The title of which can be interpreted in many different ways.

But his famous association with that musical city was ambivalent to say the least, and his position as the great Wandering Jew among composers is underlined whenever such a quintessential work as the Second Symphony is performed: it was composed piecemeal without one movement being written in Vienna, and premiered in Berlin.

Of course, its piecemeal nature is both an obstacle in performance and a key to understanding the work. In this awe-inspiring account, Christoph von Dohnányi shaped the score in one big, cohesive arch; he is in many ways a surprising but ideal Mahlerian, highly intellectual and so not over-indulgent, yet never lacking in emotion.

Performances like this one make the continuing beauty contest between London's orchestras seem pointless, since the best band is always the one being heard with the right conductor in the right repertoire. This was one of those evenings when the Philharmonia was the finest in London.

This was a performance, too, that captured the elusive spirituality of a work known as the *Resurrection*. The *Wandering Jew* may have converted to Catholicism for partly pragmatic reasons, but there is Christian fervour here which cannot be ignored. Dohnányi obtained playing of such dramatic tension that the opening bars cut through the hall, exposing raw nerves. The funeral march of the first movement was steady but bristling with fierce energy.

Two brilliantly contrasting dances followed, first the carefree and nostalgic Andante, which flowed effortlessly in spite of all the detail Dohnányi pointed up. The dream-like spell, more unsettling in the Scherzo's distantly dancing figures, was broken by the intervention of the contralto soloist — Natalie Stutzmann, whose distinctive, burnished tone brought comfort as the voice of faith.

In the finale, Stutzmann was joined by the glowing soprano of Inger Dain-Jensen, but not before the Last Judgment had been conjured up with brilliant theatricality or the chorus had stolen in at its hushed entry. The Bach Choir, trained for this performance by Ralph Allwood, was on splendid form. With one big surge, and the Festival Hall organ adding to the visceral excitement, this performance ended in a blaze of affirmation.

JOHN ALLISON

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Riddle of the plant with no name

By Nick Nattall Environment Correspondent

Species of fern has been discovered in limestone caves and crevices in the Valley and South Wales. The plant, which is named, has been found by a team at the Herbarium Museum...

Blues of a different colour

THE blues may have begun as an outsider's lament, but it has long since acquired establishment status. Nowadays the music's mournful tone is probably associated in most people's minds with the studied elegance of Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt and B.B. King or the reverent, historical approach of Paul Jones's wonderful radio programmes. If so, Jon Spencer has other ideas.

POP Jon Spencer Blues Explosion Empire, W12

On the surface, it sounds random and anarchic, and insofar as their music has anything to do with the blues, they have reacquainted the form with some of the raw high spirits which inspired its originators. But there are sophisticated minds at work on a broader canvas here, especially when it comes to newer numbers such as Calvin, with its neatly etched funk rhythm, and the closing song, Magical Colors, with its elegantly turned soul riff and Spencer's sensitive falsetto vocal.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Food for thought and feeling

IT WAS almost certainly the strangest ensemble ever to share a stage at Birmingham's Symphony Hall when Björk brought the final leg of her world tour there on Friday night. An Icelandic string octet occupied one end of the stage and techno boffin Mark Bell huddled behind a space-age console at the other, ready to unleash a formidable arsenal of electronic rhythms and sound effects. Meanwhile, the diminutive diva focused a human bridge and focal point between the two.

Björk Birmingham

nificent voice, which charged even the most cerebral avant-garde passages with loud, lusty humanity. The richly lyrical Joga and Play Dead were especially impassioned, their operatic vocals borne aloft by lush, billowing strings. Most impressively, Björk continues to push a modernist agenda, steadfastly refusing to dilute her extremist tendencies for the well-heeled crossover audience in Birmingham. This show was no middlebrow marriage of pop and orchestral styles in the Vanessa-Mae mould but a bold, fertile and sometimes jarringly dissonant merging of two wildly dissimilar aesthetics.

STEPHEN DALTON

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on how Stratford East's big plans fell apart



The check-by-jowl company: Some of the cast of Cinderella, this year's panto at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, cram into their tiny dressing-room

The unCo-operative

Fairy godmothers aren't what they were. Tomorrow night a member of the species will be solving Cinderella's woes at what is likely to be a typically ebullient Christmas panto at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. But her magic is really needed backstage, upstairs and in the desolate little car parks outside. If the people of East London had not been forced to rely on human agency, Cinderella would be opening in a renovated Theatre Royal with a large arts centre rearing completion beside it—and we would be giving thanks to the lottery, which would have paid nearly £14 million towards the project.

wood made famous and which continues to be one of the most influential theatres in the nation, looks like losing three years of its active life. At the beginning of 1998, its management sacked half the staff and put everything from lamp fittings to seats to old pictures into storage. Only to see nothing happen until April, when some workmen arrived, put up a fence, dismantled the Portakabin used for rehearsals, and all but disappeared.

things went wrong. The council also seems to have failed to ensure it could legally close its own roads on time. It is a sorry story, and may yet prove a disastrous one. Newham will have to find an extra £1 million to meet the costs caused by delays. The Theatre Royal will continue to send work to community centres and schools, and may put on a version of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea in Docklands this summer, but will have no home for many more moons.

'Getting the project agreed has been like running your head against jelly'

negotiating. The council agreed to give the Co-op a new mezzanine floor and a lift in the existing loading bay, but a final agreement still remained elusive. As Newham Council's deputy chief executive, Dave Burbage, was to report last September to his policy and resources committee, the Co-op were 'unbelievably difficult to deal with and have caused considerable delay through their

But if the Co-op accepts no responsibility for endangering the project, the council has owned up to its lapses. Burbage's report is highly critical of employees who put too much trust in the Co-op's original form of support. Their 'fundamental mistakes' included failing to involve the council's lawyers early enough, set a cut-off point for a binding agreement, consider an alternative site or formulate a fallback position if

But that is exactly the best-case scenario. If the whole project fails, there will be no new offices and dressing rooms, no nice rehearsal spaces, no proper fly-tower for a Theatre Royal that remains the cramped, chaotic, ludicrously inefficient Victorian touring house it originally was. And what about the dance theatre and the many other goodies promised next door? There will be no dance, cabaret, music, community drama, digital arts study or anything else because there will be no arts centre.

This week in THE TIMES



THEATRE Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit musical Chicago OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



JAZZ Jan Garbarek returns to the Festival Hall with his haunting saxophone solos CONCERT: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



FILM The porcine protagonist hits the metropolis in Babe: Pig in the City RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC All seats taken for the Korean soprano Sunmi Jo's recital at the Wigmore CONCERT: Friday REVIEW: Next week PLUS: Sandra Ford sings Violetta in La Traviata at the ENO on Saturday

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OBITUARIES

ROBIN RAY

Robin Ray, actor, broadcaster and writer, died yesterday after a short illness aged 63. He was born in 1935.

Robin Ray was a versatile and engaging presence in British broadcasting for more than thirty years. He made at least 1,000 programmes in his career, from quiz shows, to record reviews, to historical documentaries. But it is for his efforts to broaden the audience for classical music that he deserves to be best remembered.



Robin Ray on the set of his play Café Puccini at Wyndham's Theatre in 1986

His own knowledge of the subject was vast. But, whether in programmes he made himself, or in his work behind the scenes at the foundation of the radio station Classic FM, he was guided by a belief that lack of such expertise should never be a bar to enjoyment.

Ray's other theatre work around this time included understudying Dudley Moore in Beyond The Fringe at £35 a week. He also took up a teaching post at his old drama school, serving as Chief Technical Instructor at RADA from 1961 until 1965, when he left in support of the then principal, John Fernald, who had resigned over policy differences with the academy's council.

He began to make his name as a broadcaster when he became the first presenter of Call My Bluff on BBC television. The show, based on an American model, was imported to Britain in the early 1960s; it was not then the great success it would become, but Ray was later happy to return to the word quiz as a panelist, once it had established itself under the chairmanship of Robert Robinson.

Broadcasting provided a natural and perhaps inevitable outlet for Ray's blend of enthusiasm, knowledge and charm. He once observed that the actors in vogue when he was a young man were "blokes like Peter O'Toole, Richard Harris and Sean Connery, none of whom I resembled in any way, shape or form".

THEODORE NEWHOUSE

Theodore Newhouse, co-founder of the American publishing empire, died on November 28 in New York City aged 95. He was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on July 19, 1903.

THE CAREER of Theodore Newhouse has all the ingredients of a rags to riches Hollywood movie. The film, if it were made, would begin on the streets of New Jersey, where the young Theodore, child of poor immigrants from Eastern Europe, began hawking newspapers to contribute to the family finances.

Second and third generations of the clan, include 26 newspapers in 22 US cities; the Condé Nast magazine group, which publishes The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, Vogue and GQ; Parade, a Sunday newspaper supplement; American City Business Journals, published in 30 cities; and interests in cable television systems.

involved in the business until his health began to fail a decade ago. Born in New Jersey, Theodore Newhouse was one of eight children of a Russian father and Austrian mother. The Newhouse brothers began their foray into print in 1922, when Samuel I purchased an ailing newspaper, The Staten Island Advance.

the Portland Oregonian in 1950 for \$5.6 million. It was the largest cash transaction in the history of American newspapers. As the founding brothers began to age, they shepherded Samuel's sons into the family business. Today the company, which is still privately owned and has estimated profits of \$200 million per year, is run by Samuel Jr ("SI") and Donald Newhouse.

Latest wills

Madalyn Jean Farley, of Anersham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,962,620 net. Sydney Percival Parr, of Robertsbridge, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,630,929 net.

Comard, Sudbury, Suffolk, left estate valued at £1,438,083 net. Helen Lydia Victoria Bowring, of Arlholme, Carlisle, Lancashire, left estate valued at £1,059,142 net.

Christian Aid, Save the Children Fund, Salvation Army and Liverpool Cathedral (England). Gloria Michele Judd, of London NW6, left estate valued at £978,545 net.

Ruby Anna Richards, of Saint Martin, Guernsey, left estate valued at £1,892,376 net. Kathleen May Rising, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,801,669 net.

an encyclopedic knowledge of the standard repertoire ("Opera House to Stravinsky", as my friend, complete with tape numbers). That knowledge — and his infectious determination to share it — made an enormous hit of BBC 2's Monday evening music quiz Face The Music.

He pursued the same aim in books, from Robin Ray's Music Quiz to Favourite Hymns and Carols. But he found the perfect outlet for his talents and ambitions in his work in the early 1990s with the radio station Classic FM. Ray had previously been involved in two abortive bids for the London FM commercial franchise.

He built up and classified the Classic FM record library. In the course of a year, he listened to some 10,000 pieces of recorded music, rating them happy or sad, and awarding them stars to indicate accessibility, from four for Pachelbel's Canon to one for a Shostakovich String Quartet.

He was particularly good at asking and answering questions. He seemed to have a passion for facts — not all of them trivial, by any means — and he had a rare ability to make the pursuit and display of knowledge for its own sake seem fun.

PROFESSOR PETER DANIEL

Professor Peter Daniel, neurophysiologist, died on November 24, 1998.

PETER DANIEL was one of the most influential physiologists of his time. This may seem an odd way to describe a professional neurophysiologist, but it reflects the catholicity of his interests.

He was indeed an outstanding neurophysiologist, learning and exercising his craft in Sir Hugh Cairns's department at Oxford. Cairns's department was a highly developed and well defined speciality, and its practitioners usually kept strictly within its limits.

He was as interested in living physiology as in dead pathology. He worked with David Whitteridge, later Professor of Physiology at Oxford, doing outstanding work on vision, showing that the retina in animals was as refined and efficient as in man. They used goats for their investigations, in those days of food shortages, because these provided milk as well as experimental subjects.

history section of the Royal Society of Medicine. The happy effects of his "networking" were perhaps particularly evident in his chairmanship of the Physiological Society, when he gave some notable dinner parties at the Garrick Club, of which he was a devoted member, bringing together committee members of the society and cabinet ministers and other senior politicians.



her to her feet and dusted her hair, saying "There you are my dear." His social contacts were greatly helped by his cheerful and original conversation; he was always making unexpected and original points, not only about science.

WING COMMANDER RONALD KELLET

Wing Commander Ronald Kellet, DSO, DFC, Battle of Britain fighter ace, died on November 12 aged 89.

STOCKBROKER turned fighter pilot, Ronald Kellet was chosen to form the famous 303 "Warsaw-Kosciuszko" Squadron, which ended the Battle of Britain with more combat victories — 1176 enemy aircraft confirmed destroyed — than any other RAF unit.

chester-le-Street in 1931. But he spent his working life as a stockbroker. After leaving school he had worked briefly as a portboy on the Liverpool Stock Exchange but at 18 he went to London where he joined the stockbroking firm of Laurence Keen and Gardiner. He was to remain there until his retirement at 64, apart from his years of war service.



616 (South Yorkshire) Squadron, AAF, at Doncaster. In May 1940 he went to 249 Squadron as a flight commander, but was almost immediately posted on, this time to command No 303.

MAJORITY VOTE FOR SUNDAY CINEMAS ON THIS DAY

CROYDON, Nov. 29 The Referendum on the Sunday opening of cinemas in Croydon was taken today. The question on the ballot papers was: Are you for or against the proposal that application should be made to Parliament for powers enabling the Town Council to allow cinematograph entertainments on Sundays in this borough? The result was announced last night as follows: For 34,517; against 24,386; majority 10,131.

There were 63 polling stations for the 118,555 electors on the local government register. Polling went on from 8 am to 8 pm. The Bishop of Croydon himself voted early, in favour of Sunday opening. Lord Rochester, the Paymaster-General, drove a car in the opposing interest. Most of the printed exhortations to "Vote for Sunday Cinemas" were on motor-cars; most of the posters offering contrary counsel were displayed in front of churches. "Mothers of Croydon" one of them advised "ward the heritage of the Lords Day for your children". Another said: "Do not run the risk of being yourself compelled to work on Sundays".

The Sunday Entertainments Act 1932 provides that if a poll of local government electors declares in favour of Sunday opening of cinemas, the local authority then ask the Home Secretary for an Order giving the borough power to grant licences for Sunday performances. If conditions stipulated in the Act are attached to the licences, the conditions that must be observed under the Act, if licences are granted, aim at safeguarding the weekly rest-day of employees, and at providing out of the profits of Sunday opening contributions to charities and to a Cinematograph Fund.

It is, however, open to the local authority to attach any other conditions that it may desire to the licence. At Croydon it is proposed by the Bishop of Croydon — and his plan is supported by the film industry — that any films exhibited on Sundays must have the previous sanction of a selection committee. At Croydon the Anglican clergy were divided on the issue, and the Free Church leaders were almost all opposed to Sunday opening. The cinema industry took an active part in organizing the agitation for performance under the rules proposed by the Bishop. The result was a campaign resembling a municipal election, with the difference that it was considerably livelier and evoked much more interest than Croydon has devoted to its municipal contests for years.

BER 30 1998



CLOSE ENCOUNTER
England given pause for thought at Twickenham
PAGE 37

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

PITCH BATTLE
Australia put England to the sword in second Test
PAGE 29

AIMING HIGH
Henman and Rusedski ready to scale the heights
PAGE 28

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 1998

... TO RUE THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

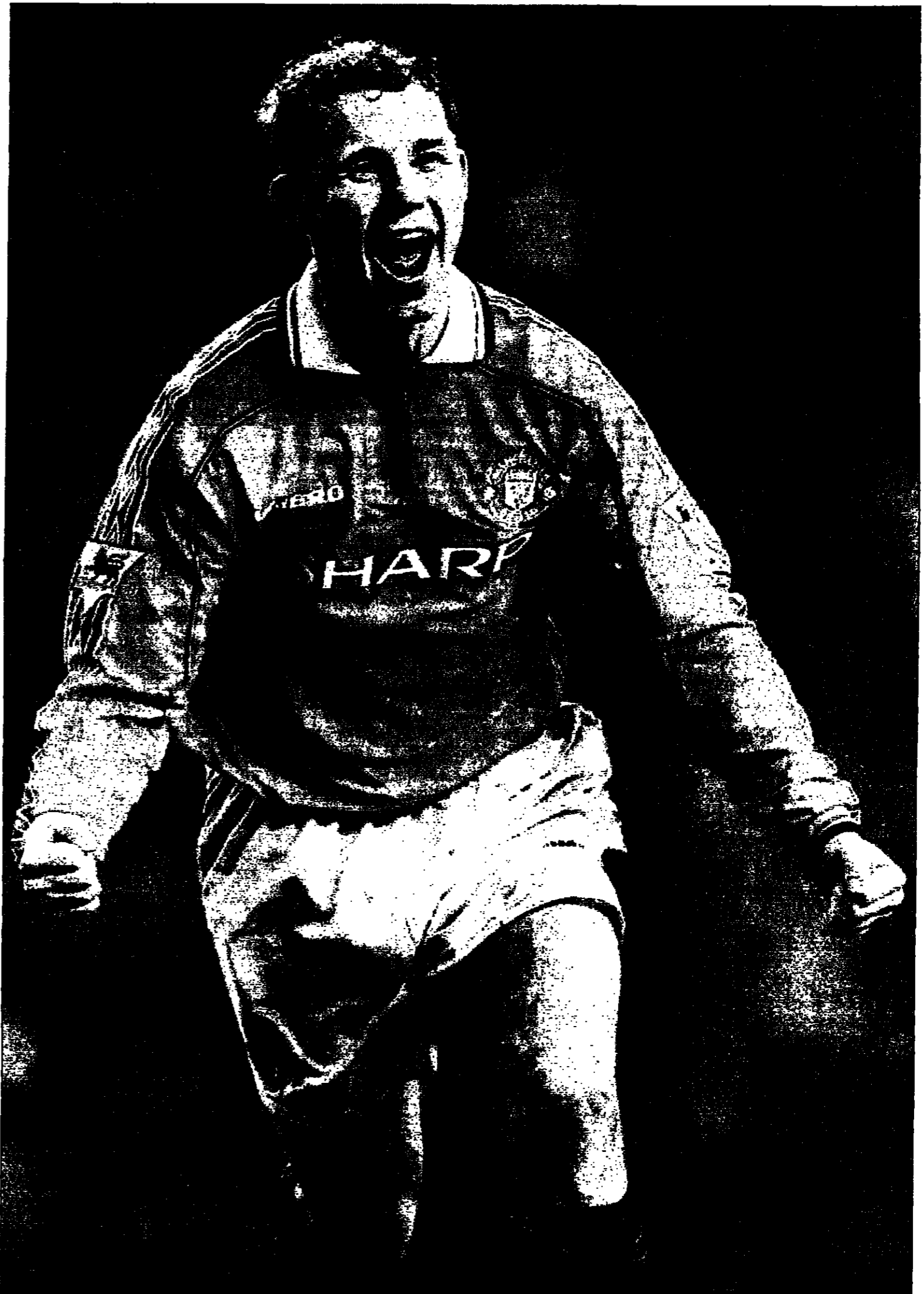
Butt ends the suffering for Ferguson

THEIR performance in the Nou Camp was always going to be a hard act to follow, but Manchester United just about managed it at Old Trafford yesterday. Against a Leeds United team that played some fine football of their own, Alex Ferguson's side turned what could easily have been a nasty case of "after the Lord Mayor's Show" into another parade of pomp and pageantry.



MANCHESTER UNITED LEEDS UNITED
by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

time at Old Trafford. It was nerve-tangling. Leeds do, indeed, appear a new team under David O'Leary. For all the vigour and discipline instilled by George Graham, they are playing like liberated men. They, too, are more unpredictable, more vulnerable, more potent. The imminent purchase of David Butt by Newcastle United will strengthen them even more.



Butt celebrates the brilliant goal that earned Manchester United a thrilling victory over Leeds United at Old Trafford yesterday while, below, Gary Neville congratulates Keane, right, after he had given them the lead for the first time. Main photograph: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

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Ferguson's flying start...30
Anelka rescue act...31
Rangers hoist cup...33
Lynne Truss...35

second half United took the lead. Keane sidefooted Scholtes's cross into the roof of the net past Robinson, Martyn's replacement. Now the match was in full flow. Kewell equalised in the 52nd minute, capitalising on a mistake by Brown and chipping the ball calmly over Schmeichel. Three minutes after that, Keane appeared to have been brought down by Wetherall and, in the rumpus that followed the turning-down of the appeals, Keane renewed hostilities with Hasselbaink, the player he was trying to foul when he sustained his knee injury last season. Kewell could have put Leeds back in front after Hasselbaink's superb turn and pass, but shot into the side netting. The stage was left clear for Butt, who turned smartly on Phil Neville's pass in the 78th minute and rifled his shot high into the net from 12 yards. Another response from Leeds was awaited, but it never came. This was not Barcelona, after all. Not quite. MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): P Scholtes (sub), W Brown, J Stam (sub), H Berg (78th), G Neville, P Neville - P Scholtes (sub), E Shearer (sub), R Keane, N Butt (sub), A Cole (sub), R Good, B D Voise, D G Solomons. LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn (sub), P Robinson, A Brown, M Heald (sub), D Wetherall, 26, J Woodgate, I Hume - A Hasselbaink, D Hoggan, S McPhail, B Raboso (sub), A Smith, 85 - H Kewell, J F Hazard. Referee: G Pol

RUN-IN TO THE NEW YEAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	34	8	5	1	22	12	29
Manchester United	34	8	4	2	30	16	28
West Ham United	15	7	5	3	20	16	26
Arsenal	16	6	7	2	15	7	25
Chelsea	13	6	6	1	22	13	24

A VILLA Dec 5 Man Utd (h) Dec 9 Chelsea (a) Dec 13 Arsenal (h)
Dec 21 Charlton (a) Dec 26 Blackburn Rovers (h) Dec 28 Sheff Wed (h)

MAN UTD Dec 5 A Villa (a) Dec 12 Tottenham (a) Dec 16 Chelsea (h)
Dec 19 Middlesbrough (h) Dec 26 Nottm Forest (h) Dec 29 Chelsea (a)

WEST HAM Dec 5 Leeds Utd (a) Dec 12 Middlesbrough (a)
Dec 19 Everton (h) Dec 26 Arsenal (a) Dec 28 Coventry City (h)

ARSENAL Dec 5 Derby Co (h) Dec 13 A Villa (a)
Dec 20 Leeds Utd (h) Dec 26 West Ham (h) Dec 28 Charlton (a)

CHELSEA Dec 5 Everton (a) Dec 12 Derby Co (a) Dec 16 Man Utd (a)
Dec 19 Tottenham (h) Dec 26 Southampton (a) Dec 29 Man Utd (h)



View: A commemoration of the centenary of the 1798 Rebellion and Stories (BBC2, 7.30pm) Review: "Cold Feet" (ITV, Sunday) ...

Lives of a cat
Geoffrey Robinson appears to be the resigning sort: had he been the humiliation of being forced to apologise to the House of Commons for breaking its rules ...

Cross of friendship
Britons and Germans are partners in a peaceful, progressive Europe. The orb and cross of Frauenkirche will proclaim a beyond Dresden ...

Performance pay
If teachers wish to be more, they need to be more. There is no more to be expected of graduates who will view their profession as a career ...

OBITUARIES
Daniel ...

LETTERS

MOON TODAY

WIND TIDES

WIND TIDES

WIND TIDES

Stevens builds unlikely lead

Stevens built an unlikely lead in the first frame of the first round of the 1999-2000 snooker season...

Stevens built an unlikely lead in the first frame of the first round of the 1999-2000 snooker season...

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Embarrassment of defeat in two days averted by batsman's aggression after Tudor offers hope

Hick's defiance buys time for England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

PERTH second day of five: Australia won toss; England, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are two runs behind Australia

ON THE day when an exciting young fast bowler was uncovered and a tormented batsman reinvented, a day of stirring deeds and drama, it is sobering to conclude that England's one tangible achievement was to avoid the very real threat of losing a Test match inside two days for the first time since 1921.

In such dire circumstances, it will appear illogical to report that England performed well, yet for most of a sun-kissed Sunday they played with heart and purpose. If this already astonishing second Test was to be lost, as still seemed almost certain last night, it would not be through the events of the second day but the sins of the first.

Few Tests are won by a side that has been bowled out in the first three hours of the game, even on a pitch with the challenging characteristics of this one. England, the instincts of their feet confused by excessive pace and decisive movement, were dismissed for 117 - precisely their first-innings total at Trent Bridge 77 years ago, when Australia needed only one further day to complete a ten-wicket win.

Yesterday, against every expectation of a derivative nation, England refused to lie down, indeed, they thwarted Australia not once but twice, first with an outstanding display of fast bowling in which Alex Tudor decorated his dashing debut with four wickets, then with batting of spectacular defiance from Graeme Hick.

Since his impossibly heralded and inevitably anticlimactic start to Test cricket seven years ago, we have heard too much of an innings being the making of Hick. His unbeaten 42 yesterday does not begin to fulfil the description but, for a man recruited for one emergency and then thrust summarily into another, it was made with such style and speed that, however briefly, we were seeking the Hick that everyone English hoped he would become.

Hick's runs came from 33 balls and contained two pulls for six during an over from Jason Gillespie costing 23 runs. Gillespie finished the day with nought for 69 from nine overs and, for a moment, it was all too easy for deception to take over and for the fact that Australia still had the match at their mercy to be overlooked.

The pervasiveness of the day knows no end. In the morning's session, for example, Australia faded 30 overs and scored only 44 runs for the solitary loss of their nightwatchman; it was introspective batting, confined



Hick pulls a ball from Gillespie to the boundary during his imposing innings yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM PERTH

Table with columns for Australia won toss, England: First Innings, Australia: First Innings, and England: Second Innings. Includes player names, runs, and wickets.

Perilous pitch tilts balance to the bowlers

John Woodcock says that excessive bounce and movement have put runs at a premium for both teams

THE second Test match between England and Australia is being fought out on a trampoline, which is why it was very nearly over in two days. The balance has been altogether too much in favour of the fast bowlers, though there were those who liked to think last night that a blistering little knock by Graeme Hick (murrhah) had put the behaviour of the pitch in its true perspective.

Hick's was, in fact, an innings conceived out of desperation. All day he had watched the batsmen of both sides being constantly beaten by balls that flew extravagantly or moved laterally off the pitch. Out to his second ball on Saturday morning, responsible for putting down the least difficult of the several catches that England missed, and with his own Test future hanging by a thread, Hick decided that the only way was to "give it a go".

The result was magnificent, but it is still too excitable a pitch for a five-day Test match. Hardly an over has been bowled by either side without there being either three slips and two gullies or four slips and one gully in attendance, poised for the next catch.

Despite such attacking fields the day's run tally would have been one of the lowest for many Test matches had it not been for the intervention of Hick. Except for Stewart in the first innings, Ramprakash in both innings and Hick yesterday, England's batsmen have been like innocents abroad.

But it has been very difficult. The most valuable stroke, it can be termed a strike, has been the "leave". It has been the "leave" that made to balls that would hit the stumps in more conventional conditions, and not many have it in their lockers. Mark Taylor, however, is its master, hence his success on Saturday. Straight balls by which others were being beaten, he was leaving alone, safe in the knowledge that they would climb over the stumps. That is the Perth technique and it is not acquired overnight.

It is no coincidence that although they have won the Sheffield Shield 13 times since the last war - more than any other state apart from New South Wales - Western Australia have never produced a great batsman. The three best have probably been John Inverarity, Ross Edwards and Kim Hughes. The method needed to handle "the Whacker's" chief characteristics makes batsmen reluctant to

get onto the front foot. For Stewart's side, against bowling as good as that from McGrath, Gillespie and Fleming, the examination has been a very severe one. For Taylor's team, runs were also at a premium.

Flat-footed and in his outsize boots, Fleming looks more like an old-time English county trundler than an Australian opening bowler. He puts one very much in mind of the late Dave Halliday, who bowled with enthusiasm and success for so many counties. First and second-class, without looking as though he had been born to it. He, too, would have taken wickets here in Perth, having been, like Fleming, strong in the shoulder and clever with the ball.

Unhappy returns for Warne

SHANE WARNE'S return to Sheffield Shield cricket ended in defeat and an unspectacular bowling analysis yesterday.

Warne, captaining Victoria, set South Australia a challenging target of 324 off a minimum of 84 overs, but saw it win with eight balls and seven wickets to spare.

Warne took two wickets for 97 in South Australia's second innings and finished the match with figures of four for 185 off 37.4 overs.

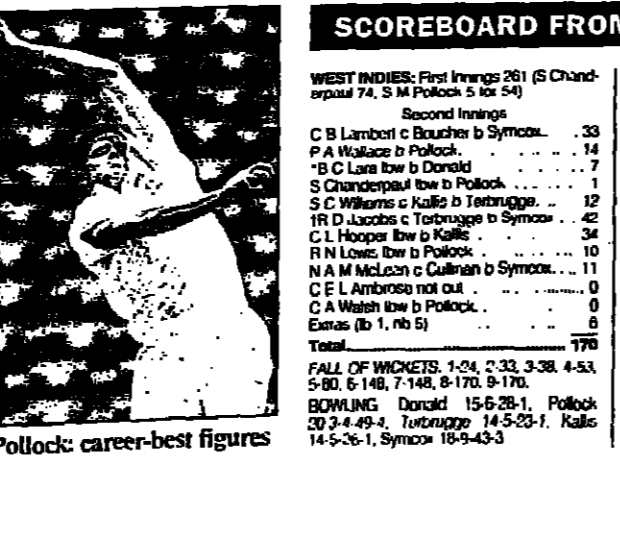
Pollock inspires South Africa

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

West Indies had resumed on 20 without loss, a lead of 13 runs. Within 23 overs, however, they were reeling at 53 for four and, on the stroke of lunch, Clayton Lambert, who had been cautious in compiling 33 in 115 balls, was caught by Mark Boucher off Symcox.

It was Pollock who had begun the West Indies slide with the wicket of Philo Wallace to his fifth ball of the morning, bowled looking to turn the ball to leg. But it was Allan Donald who made the all-important breakthrough, beating Brian Lara for pace, trapped leg-before.

Pollock compounded the tourists' plight by dismissing Shivnarine Chanderpaul, also leg-before, and Stuart Williams no more than glided a ball from David Terbrugge to Jacques Kallis at second slip.



Pollock career-best figures

SCOREBOARD FROM THE WANDERERS. Table with columns for West Indies: First Innings, South Africa: First Innings, and Wanderers: First Innings. Includes player names, runs, and wickets.

Zimbabwe close in on first Test win on foreign soil

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

The Pakistan side had earlier been undone by some spirited and accurate bowling by Henry Olonga and only three batsmen made it into double figures as the innings ended after just 36.5 overs.

"It's a fantastic feeling and I hope that now the batsmen do not spoil the good work done by the bowlers," Alistair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, said.

Pakistan lost half of the side for 34 with Olonga, the opening bowler, doing the initial damage, ripping through the top order with three wickets in ten balls to leave Pakistan reeling on 15 for four.

SCOREBOARD FROM PESHAWAR. Table with columns for Pakistan: First Innings, Zimbabwe: First Innings, and Peshawar: First Innings. Includes player names, runs, and wickets.

ES MONDAY NOVEMBER 30
Newcastle United

Parkes fails to remove Blackburn's sense of loss

A CARETAKER leads an uneasy life. He is asked to safeguard premises, but knows in his heart that he lacks the means to prevent a break-in. Perhaps Tony Parkes, who is in temporary charge of Blackburn Rovers for the fourth time, was filled with that foreboding yesterday. The points were duly removed as his side was breached at Anfield.

Failure for Liverpool was inconceivable. A fourth consecutive defeat at home would surely have unshaken the Shankly Gates. All the same, Gerard Houllier's team, to begin with at least, did not dismiss that possibility so much as rudge it aside. Too much has happened, and gone wrong, for Liverpool to show a withering arrogance. "This result does not mean we are headed," the manager said.

but diminished when kept close to his own penalty area. "I would prefer a back four," Houllier said, "but because of our defensive problems, we had to come up with a response in terms of a coach's initiative. It paid off when we won at Aston Villa and perhaps some of the players are more comfortable with this system."

they were missed. The visitors display all the signs of a club in deep trouble. Calamity is not always a matter of dire performances. The greatest alarm arises over teams who play reasonably and yet never gain any reward. Blackburn are in just that condition. Give the multiple absences caused by injury and suspension, they began with unexpected confidence and spent the first 20 minutes in vigorous examination of the opposition. Steve Staunton even had to pull Kevin Gallacher back to prevent the forward from breaking through.

Dave Dunn, the teenager starting his first game for the club, menaced with headers. Blackburn's efforts left no mark and, abruptly, defeat was inflicted upon them. Taking a pass from Fowler, after 30 minutes, Ince sent a magnificent 25-yard shot dipping into the top corner of the target off the inside of a post. Three minutes later, Redknapp's long ball was nearly controlled by Heggem and turned to Ince, who whipped a low cross behind the defence.

they leave behind them the concerns of the league programme and instead face Leicester City in the quarter-finals of the Worthington Cup tomorrow. Diligence, at least, has not deserted Blackburn. Dunn, who showed a commendable desire to make an impact, went on to force a good save from David James, as, too, did Blake. There is, nonetheless, an unenviable tone to Blackburn. Two years ago, Parkes was in charge for almost a whole season and his spells in office have been so extensive that they almost merit a testimonial.



Owen: secured victory with a fortunate goal

LIVERPOOL	2
BLACKBURN ROVERS	0

by Kevin McCarra

FA Carling Premiership: Champions end goal misery in nick of time Anelka rescues weary Arsenal

ARSENAL	2
MIDDLESBROUGH	1

by Matt Dickinson



Seaman, right, the Arsenal goalkeeper, looks anxiously over his shoulder after being beaten to the ball by Mustoe at Highbury yesterday

THE hundreds of impatient Arsenal supporters who made a premature getaway from Highbury yesterday may regret it for weeks. The roar of relief that they will have heard as they scampered home informed them that their side had scored their first goal in 533 minutes, and it may be another nine hours of drudgery before the rare sighting of another.

last seen disappearing in the direction of Seven Sisters. They failed to have a single shot on target within the penalty area until Anelka's late finish, and only an Overmars shot from 20 yards that warmed Schwarzer's hands carried any real danger.

Whether Robson's side were helped or hindered by the enforced withdrawal of Gascoigne with a knee injury after an hour was debatable. While the England exile was the one Middlesbrough player capable of holding the ball up, he was also guilty of some unnecessary overelaboration.

Middlesbrough had no reason to think they would not pick up the three points that would enable them to leapfrog over Arsenal.

Deane was one-on-one against Seaman, but the forward prodded feebly straight at the England goalkeeper.

Ginola wins plaudits of managers

WEST HAM UNITED	2
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	1

by Peter Robinson

"THE best stories possess the ability to surprise, the element of the unexpected. The scene is set, the tension builds up and, after a while, the characters seem to be almost predictable. Then, boom, the plot twists and contours and suddenly what you thought you were reading or seeing turns out to have been completely wrong.

But it was Ginola who captured his imagination and no amount of praise said as much as the moment after the match when Redknapp strode up to the Frenchman, put his hands on Ginola's shoulders and said: "You are the best, you are fantastic."

Smith's signings start to shine

DO NOT be surprised if you spot Walter Smith, the Everton manager, at the airport one Saturday morning, picking up the Everton chairman Peter Johnson, Smith's boot laden with groceries in case Johnson has run out of coffee or biscuits and with a tool-kit in case Johnson needs any odd jobs doing.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC	2
EVERTON	0

by Alyson Rudd

assuage the financiers and Smith's signings get a chance to shine. And Johnson and Smith appear to have made up. Smith did not want to discuss his meeting with Johnson last Monday, but Smith did acknowledge that it was "a force of circumstances" rather than treachery that was at work.

It was Danny Cadamarteri, who blossomed in the new Duno-free zone and he scored both Everton's goals, taking his chances with confidence after the Charlton goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, had made errors.

Vialli revolution not complete

direction his team are travelling in and just how far they still have to go. Sporadically, they played with technique and intellect. In the last 30 minutes they reverted to the base instincts of the dullard.

to detect it. If the arrival of those moments, as well as Wednesday's worthwhile claim for a penalty deep inside the second half, it was not overwhelmingly the only because of the lazy, hypnotic quality of Chelsea's play. Most of their better movements came on the break, but there was a dearth of telling final passes, of drive, of fight.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-2): S. Helmer; P. Parry, R. Ford, M. Ruddock; I. Smyth, F. Leonard, S. Connors, S. Lacey; E. Belfrage, C. Booth, S. Poole, 40 mins; J. Harrison. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-5-1): E. Beardsley; S. Carr, L. Young, S. Campbell, A. Sheen; S. Brewster, H. Halls, S. Anderson, S. Clemence, I. A. Fox, B. D. Gillet; C. Armstrong. REFEREE: G. Gulagher.

Kettering maintain impressive revival

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
By KATH PINK

TWELVE months ago they were bottom of the table without a win in 13 games and seemingly destined to end an 18-year run in the Conference, but Kettering Town's improvement under Peter Morris, the manager, means that they must now be considered serious championship contenders.

Kettering's 2-1 victory over Forest Green Rovers on Saturday kept them hard on the heels of Cheltenham Town, the leaders, whose narrow win over Rushden and Diamonds was watched by a crowd of 4,061, the biggest to pack into Whaddon Road for a Conference fixture.

Ahead inside 20 seconds through Paul Warne, the striker on loan from Wigan Athletic, who scored from outside the area, Kettering were pegged back when Hunt squared for Sykes to tap into an empty net after 11 minutes, but Warne's second goal, a powerful header from a cross by Carl Adams, secured victory for Kettering, who now trail Cheltenham on goal difference.

In third place are Stevenage Borough, for whom Carl Alford scored his fourteenth goal of the season in a 2-2 draw with Telford United. Stevenage are one of at least seven Conference sides - Kidderminster Harriers can make it eight if they beat Plymouth Argyle in their delayed replay tomorrow - hoping to earn a place in the third round of the FA Cup next weekend. One representative is guaranteed with Doncaster Rovers, still bottom of the Conference after their defeat away to Hereford United on Saturday, at home to Rushden.

If there are at least half a dozen clubs with pretensions to the Conference title, the same cannot be said for two of the feeder leagues. On Saturday, Aylesbury United beat their nearest challengers, Billericay Town, 3-0 to open up an eight-point lead in the Ryman League premier division, while Nuneaton Borough's dramatic 4-3 win over Halesowen means that they are now 14 points clear of Ilkeston Town in the Dr Martens League.

Rangers' new regime takes Scottish League Cup to Ibrox for 21st time

Advocaat delivers familiar prize

RANGERS 2
ST JOHNSTONE 1

by Phil Gordon

RANGERS claimed their first silverware of the Dick Advocaat era when they defeated St Johnstone in an absorbing Scottish League Cup Final at Celtic Park yesterday. The trophy is a familiar one for Rangers. It has graced the reign of almost every manager at the club since the war and now sits in the Ibrox boardroom for the 21st time.

A wonderful move, finished off by Jorg Albertz in the 35th minute, proved too much for St Johnstone to overcome, but at least the underdogs had beaten their own inhibitions after a seven-goal mauling by Rangers in the Premier League just three weeks ago.

Sandy Clark's side displayed a spirit to match their inventiveness and were rewarded with a fine equaliser from Nick Dasovic after Stephane Guivarch had given Rangers an early lead. They departed to a standing ovation from their supporters in the 45,533 crowd, but Advocaat clasped the greater prize, even though the Dutchman was characteristically unexcited afterwards. "I'm quite happy," he said. "It was important for the club to win this."

Advocaat denied that he felt under pressure to succeed quickly after the triumphs the club enjoyed under Walter Smith, Advocaat's predecessor as manager of Rangers. "Walter Smith did an excellent job and every manager tries the same, but that is in the past. Now is what counts," he said.

While cup finals are common currency for Rangers, for St Johnstone they possess the allure of something more substantial. Their only previous appearance in one came when they lost to Celtic in the League Cup final in 1969. Such underachievement, coupled with the Glasgow clubs' domination, tends to see an inferiority complex writ large over such occasions. Dundee



Hendry, the Rangers centre half, clears his lines under severe pressure from Kernaghan at Celtic Park yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

United, for instance, froze in this final a year ago when they lost 3-0 to Celtic and St Johnstone seemed destined to travel down the same route after going a goal behind after just six minutes.

Sergio Porrini delivered a ball down the right flank that arced over the head of Gary Bolland, the retreating St Johnstone left back, into the path of Andrei Kanchelskis. The Ukrainian sped after the pass and delivered a perfect cut-back from the goalline for Guivarch, who scored twice against the same opposition on his Rangers debut three weeks ago, to drive into the

roof of the net. However, St Johnstone did not crumble; instead, they countered. Within two minutes they were level, thanks to Dasovic, the Canada player who scored a spectacular winning goal against Celtic at the same ground in September. Paul Kane's free kick picked out the head of Alan Kernaghan and he knocked the ball down perfectly into the path of Dasovic, who sent a scaring half-volley into the net from the edge of the area.

St Johnstone's audacity knew no bounds, and Philip Scott squandered a chance to give his team the lead after latching on to a pass from

John O'Neill. Rangers, though, continued to probe at Bolland, their former player, whom Advocaat deemed to be the weak link. Kanchelskis repeatedly left him in his wake and only an alert save by Alan Main at the feet of the former Manchester United winger prevented another goal.

Guivarch should have doubled his haul in the 29th minute from Rod Wallace's hanging cross, but the France striker headed over from point-blank range. However, Guivarch stored for that six minutes later when he helped Albertz to regain the lead for Rangers. Albertz delightfully

stepped over Ferguson's pass, allowing it to reach Guivarch who eased it back into the path of the Germany midfielder player to fire a left-foot shot beyond Main.

St Johnstone's resistance was undiluted, but Advocaat tightened up his defence considerably after half-time. Amoroso maintained a vigilant, if at times illegal, watch on George O'Boyle, who was St Johnstone's main hope of a goal. That left the door ajar for O'Neill and his shot in the 54th minute was just wide of the target. O'Neill also deserved some justice when his run was later halted by Fer-

guson, who tugged his shirt as he entered the box. However, Rangers were always a threat. Giovanni van Bronckhorst drove inches wide and Main produced a spectacular save in the 80th minute from Kanchelskis. "We gave it our best shot," Dasovic said. "That 7-0 game was a fluke and I think we proved today that the gap is not so big."

MANAGERIAL (4-4-2): A. Nisani - S. Parris, C. Hendry, L. Amoroso, A. Nisani - A. Kanchelskis, S. Ferguson, G. van Bronckhorst, J. Albertz (sub: I. Ferguson, 64min) - R. Wallace, S. Guivarch (sub: G. Durie, 88)

ST JOHNSTONE (4-4-2): A. Main - J. McGuffin, D. Doch, A. Kernaghan, G. Bolkart, P. Scott, M. Chalmers, P. Kane, J. O'Neill (sub: A. Preston, 78) - G. O'Boyle (sub: N. Lowndes, 73), M. Simons (sub: R. Grant, 65)

Referee: H. Dalziel.

Aberdeen continue fall from grace

By PHIL GORDON

RED-LETTER days rarely make their mark on the calendars of Aberdeen supporters these days. Red faces have replaced anniversaries and the occurrence is almost weekly.

Fifteen years ago to the week that the club played SV Hamburg in the European Super Cup Final, voices were again raised at Pittodrie. This time, however, the emotion was anger after Aberdeen's 3-0 capitulation at home to Dundee United.

More than 300 fans demanding the sacking of the manager, Alex Miller, after the match. Only Dunfermline's defeat by Kilmarnock prevented Aberdeen from occupying the bottom place in the Scottish Premier League.

It was hardly the way that Miller would have wished to mark the end of his first year in charge. Aberdeen's dismal run of just one league win in 14 games this season means that Miller had managed just 11 successes in 42 games.

Miller, who had seen his key summer signing, Craig Hignett, depart in an £800,000 transfer to Barnsley in midweek, complained: "I have been here a year, but I have not had the finance to restructure the team. I can understand the fans directing their anger at me. They want to see us winning, but we need new faces for that to happen."

Miller, however, is being economical with the truth. One of Dundee United's goals was scored by Joe Miller, a player he gave a free transfer to, while another, Billy Dodds, has scored nine goals for United and Scotland since being sold by Aberdeen three months ago.

Proof that rehabilitation is possible was provided by Ian Durrant and Phil O'Donnell, two midfield players whose full potential has been blighted by injuries.

Durrant scored his first goal for Kilmarnock, and his first for two years, with a spectacular 25-yard drive that led to a 3-0 win at Dunfermline and closes the gap on Rangers to two points. O'Donnell underlined his recent fine form with the goal that helped Celtic beat his former team, Motherwell, 2-0.

Jones keeps eyes on Euro

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 1998

What pre Getti to miss

Goalie From Mr. J...

Goalie From Mr. J... Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0174...



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When body language sends the wrong signals

Twenty years ago, the term "body language" did not exist. If you commented on sport and wanted to be taken seriously, you confined yourself to technicalities. The extraordinary depth he maintains on second service, his ability to extract lateral movement on an apparently docile pitch — that sort of thing.

stream. The nuances of body language were screaming at every viewer on the television screen, but they were matters politely ignored by the whispering expert inside the set. We in the sitting-rooms could see who had got it and who had lost it. We would point out to others that so-and-so had "jore at all levels", or that, a set down, McEnroe was cruising to victory.

routine. They have shifted from the certainties of specialised technical knowledge to the fascinating imprecisions in which every human is expert. Thus, as we watched the enthralling semi-final duel between Tim Henman and Carlos Moyá, John Barrett and Mark Cox, commenting for the BBC, found themselves committed to an analysis of the bounce in the step of the two players as they returned to position after a point.

SIMON BARNES PROGRAMME NOTES. And the body language. These days, we get action replays of non-action. This is a one of the significant recent changes in sports coverage. And, like most new things, it can be intriguing, even startlingly revealing, or it can be a tedious gimmick that intrudes upon the flow of the drama.

of discourteously graceful air-punches and skyward leaps. "There seems to be more bounce in Moyá's step now," our commentators agreed. And there, in glory, we had Moyá's steps. Yes, there he was, on the balls of his feet, walking with that slight air of gravity-defiance that you find in tennis players who have just hit a good shot.

vocabulary well, of course; the little slip when turning back to the baseline after rattling away a volley, the thigh-high, ultra-discreet clenching of the fist after winning a big point, the hardening of the eyes that betrays the steel behind the deceptive mildness of his face.

nor did Moyá's body language fill the screen with triumphalism. I shall tell you the truth and it is a shocking one. Moyá won by playing better tennis. If you must have it, it was weight of shot on the forehand, power and accuracy combining to pass Henman repeatedly at the net, that turned the match around. Henman played well; Moyá raised his game a lag-paper higher.

'What presumption. Someone was counting unborn chickens in a reckless manner'

Getting stuck in to fans who miss the points

Chelsea dropped two points on Saturday. A loud-mouthed supporter on my train back to Brighton was much exercised by the fact. "All I know is," he belatedly, "we dropped two points and I Don't Like It." Well, I didn't know Ken Bates lived in Brighton. I didn't look up, of course, to verify the presence of the belligerent Chelsea chairman. Instead, I bent over closer to the pages of my book, making fancy pencil notes in the margins (to signal scholarly concentration). I wanted the ersatz Mr Bates to think I didn't know what he was talking about; that football was not my game. Carefully, I hid my teletext Chelsea-Sheffield Wednesday programme, in case he was looking for a punch-up.

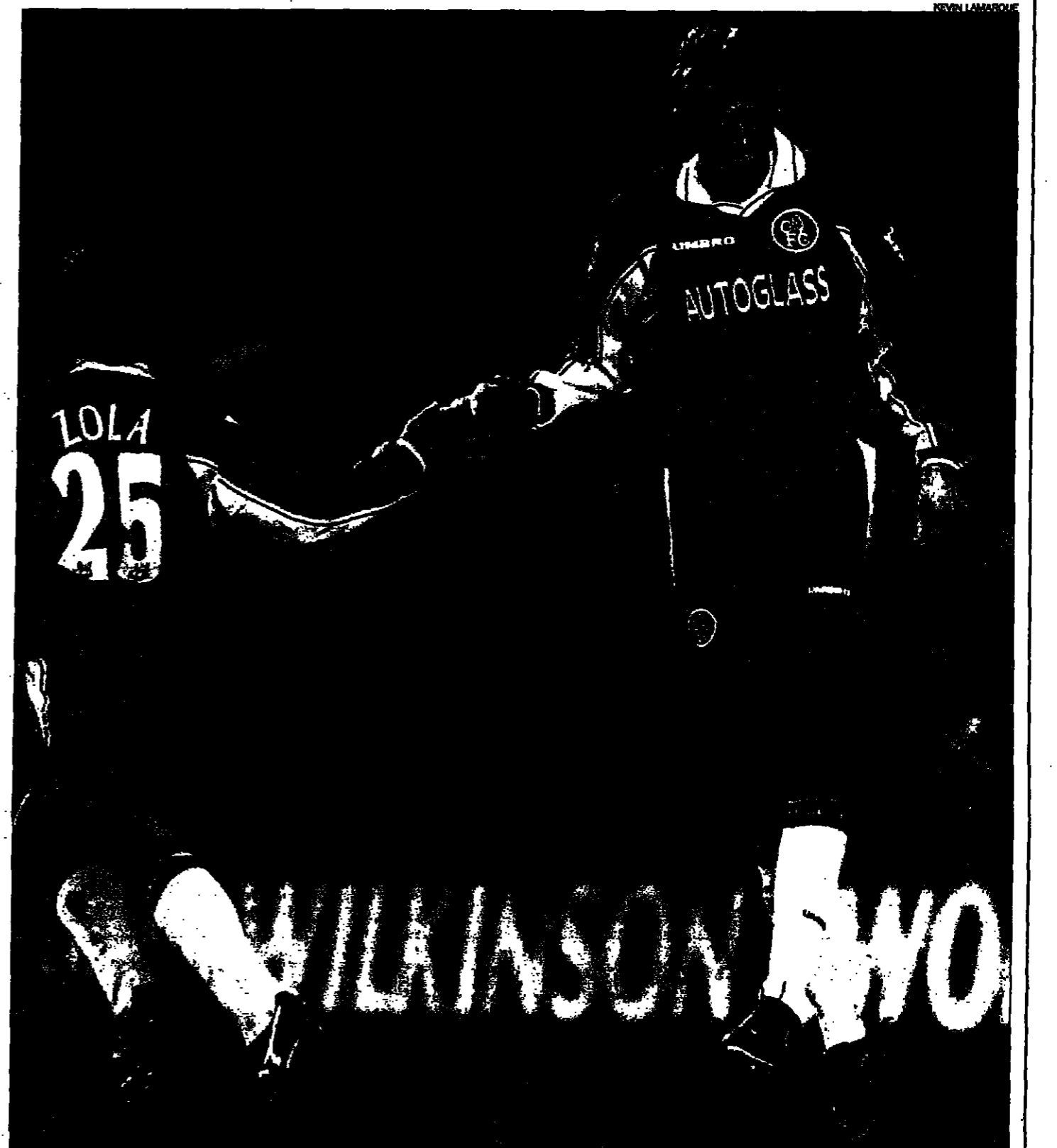
day interloper (I've been one before), and I could even handle the swirly mental effects of (cough, sniff) having a cold, but I could not cope with the man to my left, because he was a nutcase. Oh, yes. You know the sort of person. Everyone applauds a clever bit of business and the nutcase continues to clap loudly for another 15 seconds, to demonstrate that he cares more. He stands up a lot, and glares at you if you remain seated. He smells ominously of drink and has not worn enough clothes.

Nutcase had made instant friends with an enthusiastic red-haired chanter to his left, and they were barmy-arming with gusto when Nutcase suddenly tried to haul the redhead to his feet. This was Owls camaraderie taken too far, apparently; unprintable words were exchanged. The redhead was furious and scary. He had those lashed blue eyes that give you the heebie-jeebies. Elbows were flung and I found myself unable to contain my chin-wobble. But the incident safely passed and afterwards I wistfully trained my bins on the press box, where this sort of brutal altercation almost never takes place (except in the battle for the last egg sandwich, of course).

lynne TRUSS. Dropped two points? Well, what presumption. Someone had been counting unborn chickens in a reckless manner, it seemed to me, and serve them right if they were disappointed. Personally, I had watched the 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge from the Sheffield Wednesday enclave ("Barmy-army" clap-clap, "Barmy-army" clap-clap) and it had looked anything but cut and dried. True, our chaps in away-strip yellow weren't so hot on the elegant, pinpoint 70-yard crossfield passes, but we were dauntless in defence and Peter Rudi was jolly threatening up front in a skinny, dragonfly, Norwegian kind of way.

stuck in, get stuck in, get stuck in, get stuck in, get stuck in, get stuck in. Oh, shut up, shut up, you want to say. But instead, with the novel-and-pencil option sadly unavailable, you just pretend to be deeply absorbed in something else. This explains why, for much of the match on Saturday, I found myself peering through binoculars at imaginary off-the-ball incidents at the far end. No wonder I didn't notice Chelsea had it in the bag. Too busy avoiding eye-contact with Nutcase by watching Marcel Desailly pull his socks up. It got quite nasty at one point.

So it was an odd match for me. Alternately intimidated and mentally untethered (cough, sniff, where am I?), I became preoccupied by the invisible presences in the game. Like those two lost points that pigged together tantalisingly overhead but were arguably never born, there were other ghostly contributors: important absentees, Dennis Wise, suspended, always leaves a hole in the Chelsea side that is famously disproportionate to his stature. You get the chassis but not the engine. Meanwhile, what of that elusive (or do I mean illusive) "Gigi" Castagnoli? Will I die before seeing Gigi play for Chelsea? Will we all die before seeing Gigi score another goal?



Premature celebration: Flo congratulates Zola on the goal that fuelled the feeling of misguided fans that the points were as good as won

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail, including a postal address, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Lunacy over use of whip

From Mr Steve Miller. Sir, Even the RSPCA, which grapple very little of what horse racing is about, has acknowledged that "carrying a whip is necessary to steer a horse and for safety, but not to beat it to win a race". How then does the Jockey Club — which is supposed to grasp a little more of what the sport of horse racing is about — respond? It plans a programme of races, for apprentices, in which the whip can be carried, but not used. This is spectacular, bordering on inspirational, lunacy. What logical process, that concedes that a rider needs to carry a whip for safety also deprives apprentices (those most in need of that safety aspect) from the protection that the whip affords?

Improving the cricket from Australia

From Mr Alistair Young. Sir, The chances of England winning the Ashes would be enhanced if Mr Gooch were to tell his team "no hookers". I assume (perhaps wrongly) that they would understand what he meant. Yours faithfully, ALISTAIR D. YOUNG, 2 Bayham Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3KA.

Liverpool and Vigo thriving

From Mr Christopher Gibaud. Sir, Michael Henderson may well have been justified in issuing a yellow card to Liverpool's two football teams (November 2). But all Merseysiders would expect him to study the evidence that caused him to issue an equal reprimand to the region as a whole — and then withdraw the yellow card he issued to our economy, culture and accent.

Pontypooliana

From Mr Ray Ruddick. It is hoped to create a Pontypool RFC Museum in the near future, which could be an attraction at the World Cup. If anyone has anything related to Pontypool RFC, eg photographs, caps, jerseys, programmes, dinner menus, ties, badges, match tickets, who wishes to donate or lend them, please contact me. I would also like to hear from families of former players, particularly former internationals.

Blackburn tip

From Dr Michael Foley. Sir, Some of Oliver Holt's comments in his feature article (November 23) on Roy Hodgson's departure from Blackburn Rovers are a little unjust. His inference, that Blackburn Rovers is merely a provincial club unable to keep up with the best is not borne out by the facts.

Goal kicks

From Mr B. Hesmondhalgh. Sir, Why are goal kicks so often wasted in football? The goalkeeper boots the ball as far as he is able, hoping that his side's forwards will collect

the trophy cabinets of both are full again. Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER GIBAUD, Chief Executive, The Mersey Partnership, Cunard Buildings, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1ET.

This week in THE TIMES. Tomorrow: What does Lennox Lewis have in store for Evander Holyfield in their forthcoming world heavyweight title bout?

Skinstad's inspiration ensures world record can be claimed with Twickenham victory

Brave Irish find South Africa equal to the task

Ireland13
South Africa.....27
FROM MARK SOUSTER IN DUBLIN

NOW only England stand between South Africa, a grand-slam tour and that world record of 18 consecutive international victories, which for all their protestations to the contrary must be hanging like a millstone around their necks. This is their chance to make a piece of history that is unlikely to be matched and, understandably, they want to grasp it.

and have subsequently been punished ruthlessly. For Murrayfield last week read Lansdowne Road on Saturday. For all their endeavour, commitment and determination, epitomised by a corrugating performance by Keith Wood, Ireland do not have the players blessed with sufficient speed, power and natural instinct to turn a game in a trice: South Africa did in Bobby Skinstad and Joost van der Westhuizen. Skinstad, in particular, is threatening to become the game's next superstar. They might be having to adapt their game to accommodate him, but his contribution was again immense.

Ireland's problem is not unique but reflects a general malaise in Britain. Ireland defended manfully, but the fact that they spent 20 minutes of the first half in South Africa territory yet only emerged with six points, from two penalty goals kicked by Eric Elwood, illustrates the point. They created chances but could not take them. Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, said of Ireland's inability to move the ball: "They only did so once. They do not have the athletes who can exploit broken play like South Africa. We have individuals who can do things. That is the difference. We have opportunities, we take them. Opportunity have dominated us but not taken their chances."



Wood, who had an outstanding match, bursts through to the South Africa line for Ireland's only try in their defeat by the world champions at Lansdowne Road

Wood shows no signs of splintering

John Hopkins on a resilient hooker who thrives on the perils of combat

LET US praise Keith Wood, before others bury him. In Dublin on Saturday he gave another of those performances that make him unique among hookers in rugby today. Wood was immense, heroic, a man whose playing style sends shivers down the spine of those who watch him. Spectators all over the world have gasped at Wood's courage, are in awe of his energy, shudder at the impact of his collisions, avert their eyes as he sets off on another suicide mission and hurls himself at the opposition without, seemingly, a thought for his own safety.

A witty tongue. A few years ago, a journalist attending a Harlequins game watched a bald-headed man carering around the field and observed: "That chap looks like a latter version of Lee Hurst." "That's Woody," a colleague replied. "He's funnier than Lee Hurst." A better rugby player, too. The hooker's art, which may or may not be a black one, is complicated. He must make absolutely sure of winning his own ball and must strike for the opposition's. He must disrupt their put-in. Then he must be able to launch the throw-in at a line with pinpoint accuracy. Wood did all these against South Africa with skill.

DETAILS FROM LANSDOWNE ROAD. A table listing match statistics, scorers, and other details for the Ireland vs South Africa game.

Jenkins rewrites script

Pontypridd44
Neath.....7
By GERALD DAVIES
NEIL JENKINS is going through a really good patch. He has always been an important figure for his club but, last week, he managed to invest himself with a similar authority for his country against Argentina. Once more, on Saturday, he was in commanding form.

full back, was made to reach out for the ball at top speed as he entered the line. Jenkins chose his moment and his player. Either standing still or running, his distribution was a joy to watch. No one does this kind of thing better. He was indeed pivotal; the team's movement centred around him.

Band plays on as Orrell are sunk

Sale70
Orrell.....3
By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE
ORRELL are not in trouble just on the field. The financially stricken Lancashire outfit has applied for the administrator to take over the running of the club, whose debt was mirrored by the debit column that was run up at Heywood Road yesterday.

Coventry rue profligacy

Coventry13
Bedford.....12
By MARK BALDWIN
THE Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup was created last year to provide clubs with light relief from the pressures of league rugby as well as much-needed income on international weekends. Yesterday, at Coundon Road, however, was another grim day for Bedford with the Allied Dunbar Premiership One strugglers losing to Coventry, of the second division, in a first round, first leg tie.

might have given them more hope in the second leg at Goldington Road next Sunday. The bizarre invitation by Keith Fairbrother, the Coventry chairman, to Don King, the boxing promoter, to become the club's patron and King's equally bizarre acceptance had allowed this match to be billed as a possible confrontation between the American and his courtroom opponent Frank Warren, the owner of Bedford.

Neither were present, however, although King offered a message of instruction to the Coventry players in the match programme with the words: "As Churchill once said, we will fight them on the beaches."

air and sea until we are glorious." After dominating the first quarter, Coventry took a deserved lead when Kevin Whitley, the lock, drove over from a tapped penalty. Luis Crisculo stretched their lead with a penalty four minutes into the second half, but Bedford replied with a try by James Hinkins, the left wing.



Paramore: late try

Guscott's

In mathematics, a man never makes his sense. The Australians, with only a third of the population of Britain, made it into the right of this century with the crystal ball we bought this time might have been ours. Never mind the football of wisdom. Down under, our men in white were running up to the assumed Australian sporting might well well into a combination of a missed English commission and an immaculate Australian penalty goal crucially secured the Cook Cup.

Advertisement for 'LIVING WITH LIONS 2' rugby videos. It features a large image of a video box set and text promoting '2 FANTASTIC NEW RUGBY VIDEOS OUT NOW AT HMV'. The text also mentions 'FROM THE AWARD-WINNING TEAM THAT BROUGHT YOU 'LIVING WITH LIONS''.

ICE HOCKEY: AYR'S HOPES OF RETAINING SUPERLEAGUE TITLE TURNING TO DUST

AYR Scottish Eagles were beaten only five times while winning the Superleague last season. A 7-4 loss to Cardiff Devils on Saturday was their seventh reverse of this Sekonda Superleague season and it seems unlikely that they will retain the title. A significant factor a year ago was the goaltending of Rob Dopson but Vincent Riendeau, who played nearly 200 games in the National Hockey League, has proved less reliable and was at fault on at least three Cardiff goals.

Scottish Eagles missing Dopson

three-goal margin by the second interval. It was an intense encounter with Matt Hoffman and Mike MacWilliam coming to blows after only 45 seconds; a carry-over from the last time these teams met. Two more tussles punctuated the first period and a fourth, early in the third, saw Mark Montanari and Frank Evans ejected. The win kept Cardiff in contention for the league, in third place

time they have failed to score at home in their eight-year existence. Nottingham Panthers beat Newcastle Riverkings 7-4 to move to within four points of Manchester at the top. A goal behind after one period, the Panthers scored six times in the second to put the game out of Newcastle's reach. Greg Hadden and Jamie Leach each scored twice but the man-of-the-match was Jeff Dasta, who assisted on four of the seven goals.

Wright set to... HARVEY WRIGHT, the Scottish Hockey Union's senior president, is expected to be named as interim chairman of the union's executive board later this week, after the announcement that Duncanson will step down from the post on Friday.

Wright set to... His resignation was widely seen as a sign of his leadership decision-making at a time of unprecedented turmoil and division in the Scottish game. Although no announcement has been made, it is understood that his candidacy was supported at a meeting at Murray on Friday between Scottish Hockey Union figures and representatives of Scotland's county associations.

كندا من الاصل

Wood shows no signs of splintering... splintering... on a resilient hooker... on the perils of combat

Australia made to pull out all the stops before securing victory through accurate kicking of Eales

England 11 Australia 12

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

THE art of the possible is what England will concentrate on this week. That art was encapsulated in the 36 seconds it took them to score the only try of their meeting with Australia at Twickenham on Saturday...



Gregan, left, is pushed aside by Dallaglio but, ultimately, the Australian left Twickenham with a smile on his face as his team narrowly won

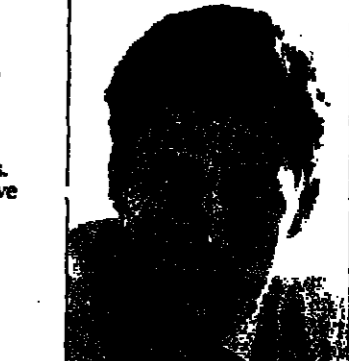
Watching Wood as he is... Wood's art, which may or may not be a black one, is complicated. He must make absolutely sure of winning his own ball and must strike for the opposition. He must disrupt their put-in. Then he must be able to launch the point accuracy. Wood did all these against South Africa with skill.

Lawrence Dallaglio's ability in the pick-up and drive from No 8, particularly against a defence in which Stephen Larkham plays a leading role. Larkham, like Henry Honihall, of South Africa, is prepared to cover the channels close to the scrums from fly half and then cover wide in the unlikely event of the forthright centres, Nathan Grey and Daniel Herbert, missing their men.

he brings to fly-half play can break the game in a way that Grayson will not. But when Guscott scored his try, Catt needed to land the conversion to put England four points clear. From half-one Catt missed and the one Eales kicked. When Catt replaced the injured Grayson he began to pose the questions that Larkham asked of England; the instinctive qualities

possible, it was not fast enough for the New Zealand referee, but it remains testimony to the Australian captain that he took the opportunity. Eales had seen his side perform poorly at the lineout in the first half, beaten for possession in the loose time and again, and inhibited in the back line where only once was a decoy move tried and succeeded — the period in which Joe Roff showed both his strength and speed, as well as his foolhardy ability. But Australia squeezed errors out of England and retained their composure.

MICHAEL LYNAGH



Woodward forgets to submit an outline plan... The scene was set for a classic confrontation. One team at the end of a very successful season, the other aiming to put to rest a record defeat...

What do England have to do to get into the winner's circle? Quite a lot, is the answer. Firstly, I was alarmed to learn that Clive Woodward does not have any overall game-plan. It looked like it. The England players seemed to be willing to try different things, but they were doing it randomly, and when that didn't work, appeared lost as to what to do next.

Why blow for a marginal throw at lineouts?

getting on with the game. Neil Back and Lawrence Dallaglio played a big part in denying Australia crucial quick possession when tries were on. Great stuff if you can get away with it, but not a great recipe for a free-flowing affair. England did well in winning the try count, but one must have more in mind than stopping the opposition scoring. It is only half the story.

Guscott's appetite worth its weight in gold

In mathematics and in human terms, it makes no sense. The Australians, with only a third of the population of Britain, made off into the night at Twickenham with the crystal that we thought this time might have been ours. Never mind the lightfall of wickets Down Under, our men in white were standing up to the assumed Australian sporting might rather well until a combination of a missed English conversion and an immaculate late Australia penalty goal cruelly snatched the Cook Cup.

Wilson had just passed the milestone of his countryman, Simon Poidevin, in becoming the most capped Australia flanker. Poidevin's 59 appearances in his country were spanned over 11 years, but Wilson has accumulated 60 appearances in just six years — and this in an era of unprecedented physical ferocity.

that won the second international match against the Springboks in Durban, but afterwards was like a limp rag around the team hotel, morose and pining for home. To keep such a man interested, to persuade him back from long and significant injury, and to encourage him through adverse moments is the task of Clive Woodward, the England coach. Halfway through the first half on Saturday, when Guscott took wing for the first time, his path was crushingly stopped by three towering opponents in green and gold; almost 50 stone slapped Guscott to ground. Yet, when the moment of opportunity came in the second half, when the dashing run of Perry and the force of Garforth had opened up Australia's defence, Guscott, with his precious timing, was there to cross the line.

southern hemisphere sides are all beatable," he insisted on Saturday night. Then, using a phrase that runs like a mantra through so many British sports, Guscott added: "We've just got to believe it. England today were as good as Australia. Maybe their performance was more controlled, but we had the chance, we just have to seal the deal."

DETAILS FROM TWICKENHAM. SCORES: England: try Guscott (43), penalty goal Eales (58), 11-12. AUSTRALIA: try Guscott (43), penalty goal Eales (58), 11-12.

Wright set to assume control

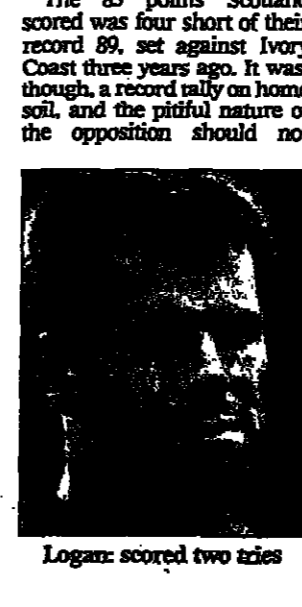
HARVEY WRIGHT, the Scottish Rugby Union's senior vice-president, is expected soon to be named as interim chairman of the union's executive board later this week, after the announcement that Duncan Paterson will step down from the post on Friday.

Welsh rugby chiefs are set to investigate serious drug abuse allegations made yesterday by J.P.R. Williams, the former Wales and British Isles full back. "It is fairly well recognised that certain players have been on anabolic steroids and haven't been tested," he told The Sunday Times.

Scotland thrive in unfamiliar role

Scotland 85 Portugal 11. It is a familiar theme around Murrayfield to hear a ripple of sympathetic applause as 15 plucky underdogs stage a late revival, salvaging honour from hefty defeat.

qualifying tournament format that permits two sides to progress from each group of three, they fielded an under-strength side against Scotland, holding back some of their best players for an all-or-nothing meeting with Spain on Wednesday.



Logan: scored two tries

The 85 points Scotland scored was four short of their record 89, set against Ivory Coast three years ago. It was, though, a record tally on home soil, and the pitiful nature of the opposition should not obscure the fact that Scotland were admirably efficient in their achievement of it.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Edward Gorman on a British sailor who surpassed all expectations

Jubilant MacArthur joins elite

ELLEN MacArthur, the new heroine of British short-handed sailing, made it to the finish of the Route du Rhum at Point-à-Pitre on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe on Saturday evening to finish an extraordinary fifth overall in the monohull fleet. This was a better ranking than she could have dreamed of: she beat eight of the 13 60-footers after setting out in her 50ft Kingfisher, and won her own four-strong class with consummate ease.

More importantly her performance in this race — she was also the first foreigner to finish and the first woman — and the resourcefulness she showed in overcoming significant technical obstacles, establishes the 22-year-old as an exceptional single-handed racing sailor. MacArthur's dream of winning the next Vendée Globe round-the-world race in 2000 could become reality.

After an agonising last couple of days into the finish when the wind died almost to nothing around the coast of Guadeloupe, MacArthur finally brought Kingfisher ghosting across the line in heavy rain and darkness, but with the applause of thousands ringing in her ears. Her time for the 4,000-mile Atlantic crossing from St Malo put her two days behind the monohull winner, Thomas Coville, of France, in Aquitaine Innovations. But the nearest threat to her on the water, Philippe Monnet in the 60, Unnet, was still 140 miles from the finish when Kingfisher reached the dockside. Her nearest rival in Class 2 for 50s, Luc Coquelin in Multicarb Gamelin, was more than 300 miles behind.

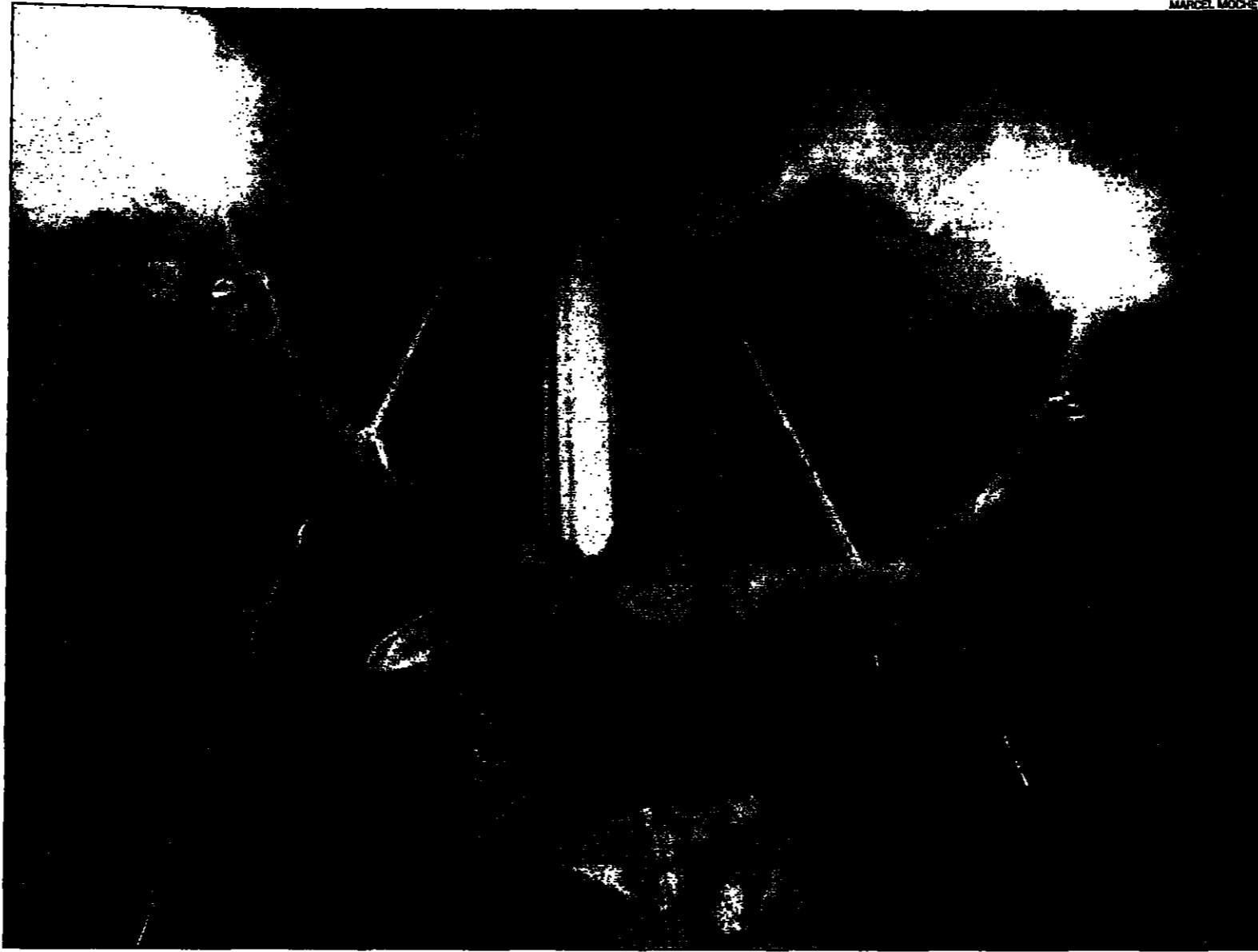
"I never really knew how I was going to do in relation to the 60s, and I'm pleased with how it's come off," MacArthur said yesterday, still thrilled by the sheer elation of finishing. "It was hard for me to know how I was going to do because I've never raced against a 60 before in a 50, nor on my own. So it was quite difficult to get a balance on how things were going to go."

"But after the first few position reports I began to realise that this really could happen and then you just push — you have to make a decision that that's what you are going to do and then you just get on and do it."

MacArthur's success was set up early in the race during a week of fearsome gales as the fleet set off to windward across the Bay of Biscay. In those conditions Kingfisher, formerly Aqua Quorum, was able to hold her own against the bigger boats. But her early top ten overall ranking was also testament to MacArthur's relentless hard-driving in seas that tested other more experienced skippers to the limit and forced several early retirements.

The other key feature of her race was the way in which MacArthur managed to stabilise Kingfisher's keel when a hydraulic failure midway across the Atlantic left it swinging freely and dangerously under the boat. To begin with her running repair locked the keel off along the centre line of the boat. But it was not long before this restless young sailor had found a way of inching it to one side or other to eke out as much speed from Kingfisher as possible.

This underlines MacArthur's extraordinary competitiveness. Her e-mails from the boat were full of ambition to go as fast as possible despite physical discomfort and gear failure. She damaged her leg on the foredeck and took a heavy blow to the head; her fingers and hands were covered in cuts and salt sores



MacArthur, weary, nursing injuries, but ecstatic, is illuminated by flares after finishing the Route du Rhum in Guadeloupe on Saturday

while the boat itself represented an extra challenge for not having roller-furling gear on the headsails. There were also occasional power problems and the inevitable torn sails.

Reflecting on the race as a whole, MacArthur pinpointed the advent of the keel problem as the worst moment. "It was a pretty serious situation — no hydraulics at all," she said. "There was nothing I could do about it at the time and from a race point of view, it was definitely a moment when I felt I was not going to be able to carry on."

MacArthur has done more than enough to justify her ambition for the Vendée Globe for which she needs £1.5 million to build her own 60. In France — the dominant country in single-handed sailing — she has become a household name through her prominent presence in daily television and radio coverage of the Route du Rhum.

The girl from rural Derbyshire has provoked comparisons with some of the great modern French single-handers. Leading sailing commentators in France, like Christian Evrier, are still making them. "We've had Florence Arthaud [winner of the Route du Rhum in 1980] and we've had Isabelle Autissier [at present racing in

the Around Alone]. We desperately needed someone else and now we've found her in Ellen," he said shortly after MacArthur finished on Saturday.

Naturally, MacArthur herself is feeling a little more confident about her chances of getting to the start of the Vendée now and in a boat capable of winning that ultimate single-handed classic.

"Nothing has happened during this race to change my plans though I think I am pretty realistic about how hard it's going to be. But nothing's easy — you just have to get on and do it," she said, repeating her mantra.

Nicholson hat-trick as champions close in

Nicholson hat-trick as champions close in

BY CATHY HARRIS

IT may not have been a convincing performance but a hat-trick by the England and Slough striker, Mandy Nicholson, was enough to steer the premier division champions to a 3-0 win against Doncaster as the teams moved into the winter break.

An excellent victory over Leicester on Saturday and yesterday's win at Southgate steered the title-holders to a weekend double and within three points of the leaders, Ipswich. But as Slough's captain, Sue Chandler, admitted, earning six points was crucial for the squad who were missing several key players.

"It certainly wasn't a classic and the result flattered us," she said. "But considering we haven't played well this season and the younger players were forced to take responsibility, we're extremely relieved to come away with the points."

With the veteran, Karen Brown, ruled out until after Christmas with concussion, the Irish international, Sarah Kelleher, involved in provincial matches and the former Springbok, Ashleigh Wallace, in Cape Town after a family bereavement, it took Slough 48 minutes to break the deadlock against Doncaster.

Nicholson made the most of a good advantage played by the umpire to open her account and doubled Slough's lead from a double switched penalty corner 15 minutes later. Chandler set up the third, initiating a sweeping counter-attack from deep inside her own half and after Fiona Greenham and Lesley Hobley combined to find Nicholson, she then rounded the goalkeeper to finish off the best move in the final minute of the contest.

Two goals against Olton by Sarah Barnfield helped Ipswich extend their unbeaten run and Tina Cullen scored the only goal of the game for Hightown against Doncaster as the Merseysiders moved into the top four for the first time. Working of the second division, boast the only 100 per cent record after Joanne Murphy scored a hat-trick against St Albans.

Williams' exit sees Southgate lose lead

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE lost a 2-0 lead yesterday and went down 3-2 at home to Canterbury, who stay on top of the National League premier division by virtue of a show of patience and fortitude.

About midway through the second half Williams, the Southgate captain, was suspended for a questionable tackle, contrary to widespread belief that he was not the man responsible. While he was off, Canterbury scored twice, transforming a 2-1 deficit into a winning lead under the influence of Kerly, their player-manager, who came on as a second-half substitute.

In the last five minutes Canterbury's goal was under heavy siege, with Southgate failing to put three shots from short corners past Triggs in the Canterbury goal. The home side's goals were scored by Williams in the eleventh minute from a short corner, with Shaw adding the second goal with a brilliant shot seven minutes later.

Matthews won the match for Canterbury with a goal from a short corner in the 54th minute, having scored their first goal six minutes before the interval. Their other goal was netted by Hollingworth in the 52nd minute.

Cancock moved into second position with a 3-2 away victory over East Grinstead. Crutchley scored the winning goal three minutes before the end to earlier goals by Parnham from a short corner, and Kalbir Tahker, Cabey and Head replied for East Grinstead.

Reading dropped to sixth position after a 2-2 draw at home against Old Loughtonians, although Robert Todd secured them a point with an equalising goal three minutes before the end.

England's trophy for the Champions' Trophy tournament at Brisbane, Australia, in June next year was confirmed on Saturday by the International Hockey Federation (IHF) in Brussels. They had withdrawn from the twentieth tournament of the series recently held in Lahore, in Pakistan, for security reasons.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT The 1999 Daily Bridge Calendar has a problem for each day of the year. The hands are about the difficulty level of my Refresher series of articles. Here is an old chestnut, chosen by Ron Klingner for October 16th. Try covering up the West and South hands and test your defence as East.

KEENE on CHESS BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT Wrexham The Owens Corning grandmaster tournament at Wrexham is one of the strongest annual fixtures in the UK. This year's event was won jointly by Stellan Brynell, of Sweden, and Thorstur Thorhallsson, of Iceland. Interestingly, the best game prize, given for today's game, featured one of the co-winners as the victim.

BASKETBALL

England set out to build confidence

FROM NICHOLAS HARLING IN LEON, SPAIN

LASZLO NEMETH is not a man given to indulgent helpings of self-praise...

Such foresight, Dr Nemeth believes, will give him a chance to correct the many flaws evident in England's 74-58 defeat here by Spain in the European championship semi-final round tie on Saturday...

The fear of much pain in Spain had forced Dr Nemeth into his meticulously planned itinerary...

For the first seven minutes against Spain, England stayed with the world's fifth-ranked nation, limiting Alberto Herreros...

apiece from Steve Bucknall and Roger Huggins, England were only 12-10 down and in contention...

Moments later a stray elbow caught Huggins below his left eye, forcing him off for the insertion of three stitches...

Huggins was not to score again but Bucknall continued to do so. The scorer of six successive free throws just before the interval...

Bucknall's tally of 15 points was six less than Amaechi, who recovered from a wretched first half to end the evening with ten rebounds...

That was not something England's own 7ft 2in man, Andy Betts, managed to accomplish...

Fine coach work carries champions

By JOHN GOODBODY

Many pupils like their PE teachers. They respect their efforts in coaching, driving buses to matches, shouting encouragement and advice from the sidelines...

However, seldom can there have been such fond admiration as that of the girls of Francis Bacon School, St Albans...

The letter came from Stacey Nicholls, captain of the victorious under-19 team this year and now a student at Luton University...

They are busy staging discos and writing letters seeking sponsorship and donations, so that this mixed state school of only 630 pupils can have the experience of a lifetime...

Watters is planning to guide them in Israel, just as she has guided so many successful girls' teams since she arrived at Francis Bacon 12 years ago...

Francis Bacon have had to display immense spirit in many matches. Playing against Siddalmoor, Rochdale, in the under-16 final, they were trailing by 15 points at one stage but gradually worked their way back into the match to win 69-66.



Gemma Farmer, left, and Ashleigh Jones, part of the team hoping to travel to Israel

in the team, said: "We have all been together for years, so everyone knows what we are going to do on the court..."

Watters said: "They are super kids. They never miss practices and many of them are in the gym every day..."

"We do not necessarily have a lot of tall players so we have to work hard to compete, relying on speed and anticipation..."

Many of the girls watch American stars, such as Michael Jordan, on television but the younger ones get inspiration from each other...

"They look towards the peer group. I remember one girl doing one particular move and I asked her where she had learnt it. She replied that she had been watching one of the older girls earlier in the day..."

Sarah Hughes, 13, of the United States, finished second and although she took off from the wrong edge to two triple lutz jumps, singled a triple loop and faulted the landing of a triple salchow...

ICE SKATING

Russian's victory shows poor standard

FROM ANGELA COURT IN ZAGREB

THE majority of the 24 women who skated in the free programme at the world junior figure skating championships here must be shaking their heads and uttering "if only..."

In the end, however, give or take the odd instance, the right skater wins. This person is not necessarily the best in the competition, rather the one who can perform well under pressure...

Daria Timoshenko, of Russia, won the gold medal with a programme that was both technically and artistically average. She created the landing on an opening triple lutz jump combination, and later fell on a solo triple lutz.

Viktoria Volchikova, of Russia, skated with a heavily strapped right ankle and, despite two falls, took the bronze medal ahead of Irina Nikolaeva, her compatriot.

BOXING

Eastman anxious to impress

By SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MUCH was expected of Howard Eastman when he arrived on the scene in 1994 and started on his career of quick victories...

It has seemed surprising that it has taken Eastman such a long time to reach the British championship level, but he has been out of the ring for 11 months with a hand injury...

three times since his return and even though he is unbeatable in 18 contests, with 16 of those ending inside the distance, he has not looked as impressive on his return as he did at the beginning of his career...

He gets his chance to impress at Bowlers, Manchester, tonight, however, when he meets Steve Foster, of Salford, for the vacant British title...

Eastman, whose main asset is his big punch, look ordinary. Foster, who has suffered 14 defeats in 36 contests, has been boxing since 1981, but after Ronald Wright, the American WBO champion, stopped Foster in six rounds in May 1997, the Salford man retired to concentrate on business matters...

It would be surprising if Foster is able to stand up to the heavier man if the blows are not deflected effectively.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Table with columns for TODAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, and OTHER SPORT, listing various football, rugby, and other sports events.

Large advertisement for 'COMMI' featuring the headline 'How could a free Commiscan cut phone bills, boost customer enquiries, expand your business worldwide and increase profitability?' and the slogan 'Who cares - just get one.' The ad includes a phone number and the website 'www.commi.com'.

Vertical advertisement for 'RACING' featuring 'WORCESTER KELSEY FOLKESTONE' and other racing-related information.

GERMANY

On the eve of a State visit by President Herzog, Roger Boyes looks at Germany's new Government and its links with Britain

Europe's pivotal country looks to our youth



Youth are the key to the future of Europe: Roman Herzog, Germany's 64-year-old President, jokes with youngsters of the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in Brandenburg

Germany's new Social Democratic-Green Government, so convincingly voted in power in September, promises a blend of continuity and innovation. But it is vague on detail. Will Chancellor Schröder's Government abandon economic orthodoxies of the past 16 years, or will it snatch ideas from every ideological corner?

Will business start to think more in terms of short-term rewards, and of shareholder value, setting aside the careful corporate strategies that sometimes took decades to realise? Will Germany let itself become a multicultural society? Will it gain or lose confidence as the capital moves from Bonn to Berlin?

President Roman Herzog, who visits Britain tomorrow, has been trying to prepare his country to be the Berlin Republic of the 21st century. But Germany is unsure whether it should stake a claim to be a global power or just a regional force. Herz Schröder enjoys a stronger position than most of his predecessors. His majority is strong and his coalition partner, the Greens, are proving solid allies.

The Social Democrats dominate both houses of Parliament, their nominees head the constitutional court and the German equivalent of the MIA, and Johannes Rau, the Social Democratic candidate, is likely to replace President Herzog when steps down next spring.

social Democratic supporters

are in leading positions in the media. And throughout Europe there are like-minded governments that welcome Chancellor Schröder to their club. Only now is it clear how isolated was Chancellor Kohl in his last year, how weakened his Christian Democratic party.

Yet Herr Schröder has so far not made much of his power, partly because he wants to assure everyone that a "Red-Green" Government is not the living nightmare once feared. Mainly, though, his hesitancy can be explained by the unresolved struggle for the soul of the Social Democratic party. Oskar Lafontaine, its chairman, is also Finance Minister and he makes no bones about his high position in the pecking order. He has already challenged the Bundesbank and is gearing up for a duel with the European Central Bank: monetary policy, he believes, should be at one with government policy if unemployment is to be cut. Herr Lafontaine's target is the euro: he wants it to become a soft or "red" euro rather than the hard mark substitute that Chancellor Kohl was promoting.

Chancellor Schröder's views on this are fuzzy, although he swears he is committed to the independence of the Bundesbank, the European Central Bank and the stability of the euro. At heart, he does not believe that the switch from the mark to the euro matters much; the political adjustment forced by the euro matters more. He wants his chan-

cellorship to be measured against its ability to deliver jobs, and this will require many elements. The key struggle is between the Social Democratic modernisers grouped around the Chancellor (led by Bodo Hombach, his Minister without Portfolio) and the social conservatives aligned with Herr Lafontaine.

The German Social Democrats will have simultaneously to govern and to determine the character of their own movement. In the long term, the modernisers will win: Social Democratic modernisers argue that jobs in smokestack industries had to go to make space for new jobs. Herr Lafontaine cannot, as party chairman, defend the doomed coalminers and at the same time cut subsidies to the pits as Finance Minister.

The best perspective to view Germany is from 2006, because the Social Democrats have every chance of surviving, with or without the Green Party, for a second term. By then, the European Union will be larger, Germany's geopolitical influence broader and the euro established as the onshore currency.

Where Britain fits into this new order has to be determined over the next two years. Anglo-German relations have been defined over the past 16 years by our differing views of the European future. The mood music between Britain and Germa-

Roman's empire: no need to fear change

Change in Germany occurs at the speed of a glacier. That's how it seems in a society based on consensus: an elaborate system of checks and balances supposed to stave off the drama of political change, to mould a country devoid of surprise.

Now that image must be overhauled. Assumptions that held good for 16 years about the logic of taxation or the preferred source of energy are being challenged. But German society began changing well before September's general election. From the mid-1990s, old habits and loyalties were being discarded. The Government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl failed to spot this creeping transformation.

One politician who did sense the new mood was Roman Herzog, the president. Like Herr Kohl, he has conservative credentials but it would be wrong to conclude that they are intellectual soulmates. Since coming to office in 1994, President Herzog has moved closer to his people just as the then chancellor was pulling up the drawbridge.

The Bavarian law professor set the tone in his inaugural speech when he called for a more relaxed society, using the term *unverkrampt*, which means uncramped.

It seemed odd at the time. True, Herr Kohl wanted to make Germany a "normal" country, at ease with its past and ready to play a fuller part in the Western alliance. Was President Herzog appealing for something broader, a new understanding of Germany?

Germans do not really know what they want from their presidents. Although the post is ceremonial, it gives the holder the power "to warn, admonish and encourage". President Herzog's predecessor, Richard von Weizsäcker, appeared to be the model of presidential behaviour. A high-minded aristocrat, he called on the country to be more tolerant at a time when neo-Nazis were attacking refugees. He filled in the many gaps left by Herr Kohl and tried to raise the level of moral and intellectual debate. President Herzog is an altogether different figure. Academically

brilliant, he has an earthy manner and a lilting Bavarian accent. He listens to people, addresses their fears and tells them to take courage. Fear of failure is paralysing Germany as it faces the prospect of serious social and economic transformation. President Herzog sees it as his role to warn about the dangers in not moving forward.

He has sounded off about the deterioration of universities, the need for tax reform, the need to reduce bureaucracy and see other cultures as an enrichment, not as a threat. That principle applies to foreign policy and to facing up to history, an area in which the Kohl Government sometimes lost focus, for example, in its policy towards Eastern Europe. He says the political class must listen to the inner rhythms of the different tribes that make up the German people. *Unverkrampt* now has a clear political meaning: acknowledge your strengths and your weaknesses, accept the facts, trust the younger generation.

The bogeyman that haunts a nation is backing off

For half a century, social and economic consensus in Germany has been glued together by the chronic fear of inflation. There is nothing surprising about this: the hyperinflation of the interwar years had the effect of an emotional hurricane, devastating lives and life savings. It was a key element in the rise of national socialism.

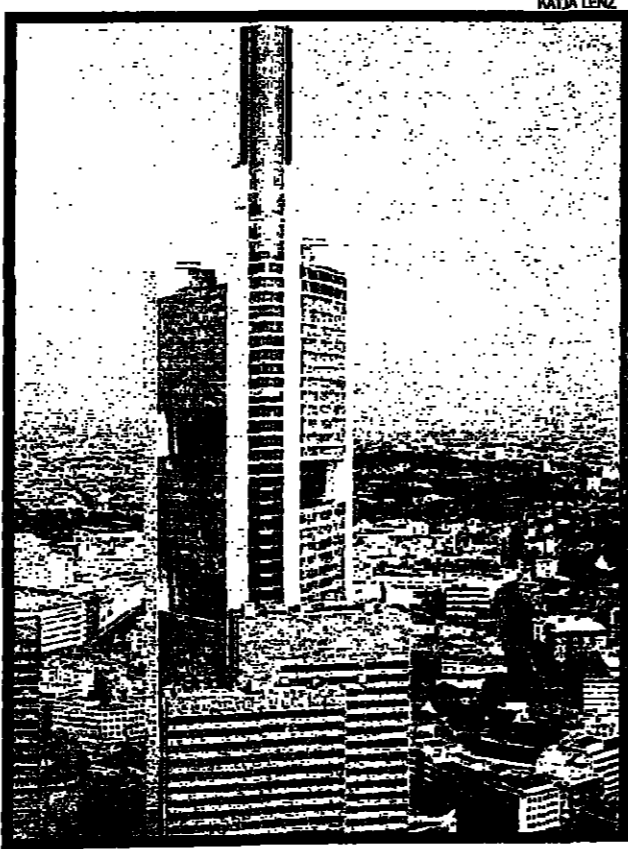
The memory of inflation, passed on from generation to generation, ensured that the central bank, the Bundesbank, was given almost complete political independence after the war and the constitutionally defined mission to defend the stability of the mark.

Yet after year, unions put in big wage demands and, for the most part, unions caved in. The inflation argument invariably won the day. Now the fear of inflation seems to have ebbed. Consumer prices inched up by 1.8 per cent in 1997 by barely 1 per cent this year and a 1.3 rise is predicted for 1999. There is some anxiety about a soft euro but, contrary to expectations, the new single currency played little part in the general election campaign.

So what has replaced the bogeyman of inflation? Chancellor Kohl calculated that Germany had become more nervous about losing their jobs than about prices edging up. During his last two years in office, unemployment seemed to be hurtling towards the five million level. Even though it never reached that point, each month seemed to break post-war jobless records.

The political calculus was that Germans would vote for a programme that guaranteed security, which promised that the euro would deliver jobs, and would not frighten business. But the fear of unemployment seems to have gripped only a section of society and has never come to resemble the atavistic terror of inflation.

Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democratic Finance Minister, has been juggling up new worries. Could Europe be poised on the brink of a depression? He is careful not to go public with these sentiments, but he certainly rattled his coalition partners during the immedi-



Sky-high targets: the HQ of Frankfurt's Commerzbank

Employment and job security now take top government priority

ate post-election negotiations. Germany had been partly shielded from the Asian and Russian financial crises but problems would soon begin to bite, he warned his colleagues.

If the Government did not immediately depart from the path of Helmut Kohl, the economy would plunge into the doldrums. And so it was that the coalition, with surprisingly little resistance, bought into a programme described as Euro-Keynesian, a radical departure from the orthodoxies of the past 16 years.

The Government is working out ways of boosting domestic demand, creating new jobs (unlike the Kohl team, it favours a European job pact), and co-ordinating monetary and fiscal policies (immediately challenging the Bundesbank to a duel

thus emerging from the Government. It is avowedly business friendly (Chancellor Schröder is on the supervisory board of Volkswagen) and on favour of flexible working practices. Yet the tax loopholes it is closing punish business.

Bigger companies are modernising without Government help but smaller firms — the so-called *Mittelstand*, the real dynamo of the economy — need protection and claim they are not getting it. Meanwhile, trades unions think their day has come. They, too, are likely to be disappointed as soon as the round-table Alliance For Jobs starts in December.

Foreign direct investment in Germany is significantly below that of Britain and is sure to be negatively influenced by Germany's new commitment to scrapping atomic energy. How will the Government fund the alternative energy sources? This open question, a continuing high level of income and corporate taxation, with high labour overheads: these remain the ball and chain of Germany's economy.

For all that, Germany's economy has surprising resilience and has developed a certain immunity to political change. Growth will approach 2.7 per cent this year and slip to 2.3 in 1999. That is not too bad and a long way from Herr Lafontaine's imagined depression.

Unemployment, even before the Government has started to do anything, is coming down and could average less than four million next year. That improvement, however, is almost entirely in western Germany. Only expensive job-creation schemes are likely to dent the situation in eastern Germany.

Germany has become very vulnerable to storms around it. The beginning of the euro, it hopes, will guard it from the worst next year. But the world has become an uncertain place, with a third of the global economy in recession. It has to look more and more to its traditional strengths — its high productivity, skilled workforce, its export competitiveness — and learn to improve solutions.

ROGER BOYES

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GERMANY

Straight talking at the table

Leading German industrialists meeting in London on the eve of President Herzog's state visit this week had a simple message for Britain: join the euro. "We simply expect that Britain will eventually join the single currency," said Walter Hasselkus, chief executive of Rover.

Dr Hasselkus was speaking at a dinner — in effect an Anglo-German business round table — organised by Mercedes-Benz Finance and *The Times* that addressed the issue of how the two countries could bridge the gap between business cultures. There was a quiet consensus about the euro, a solid certainty that Britain would have to join the club. "It is an emotional issue and there are many opposing points... but I do not believe the UK can escape," says Dr Hasselkus. If Britain were not to join the euro for, say, ten years, German investors would have to think again.

Thomas Kielinger, *Die Welt's* London correspondent, agreed. "I have a hunch that Britain will have to go for the euro," he said, adding that it would be a critical moment in the country's history. "Never in history has Britain had to choose between trade and the nation. People have just got to come to a decision. It may have to do with the level of future German investment in Britain."

The German executives nodded their approval. There really is, in the German view, no escape from what Herr Kielinger called "His Majesty the euro".

The question of the level at which the pound should enter European Monetary Union — the executives were asked whether the current

Roger Boyes hears German executives discuss ways of increasing British productivity

rate of about 2.7 marks to the pound would work for German business — was shrugged off. "It's up to the markets," said Gerhard Storch, the chief executive of Hoechst UK. "Business will have to adapt." The key issue was whether, and how quickly, the euro learnt to fly. "When the euro proves itself the pound will come down," said Dr Manfred Huebener, the finance director of Bayer AG. "More interesting than the entry level of the pound is the prevailing interest rate in Euroland," chipped in Neil McMillan who is the main European expert at Peter Mandelson's Department of Trade and Industry.

There has been much talk — not actually discouraged by No 10 — of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, being a German equivalent of Tony Blair. That was always rather far off the mark. But it did at least recognise a truth: that both countries have much to learn from each other. At a time of uncomfortable comparisons between British and German productivity levels, it was useful for the British participants to hear the views of Dr Hasselkus. As he and the other German executives talked, Rover executives were locked in negotiations with the unions about flexible working practices. Dr Hasselkus was not the only executive to strike a reassuring

note. "So far as Rover is concerned, the workers work hard. When we have completed our current investment programme, productivity will be as good as anywhere in the world," Herr Storch concurred, saying it boiled down to intelligent management. "We took over Bergler, a British paint company in the 1970s," he said, "and found similar attitudes that you found in Rover. We also started factories from scratch. And if you compared the productivity of the two, there really was no difference. It was, and is, a question of management."

Vocational training was a missing component in Britain. Robert Hanser of Robert Bosch said: "Training is the key issue. Statistical productivity is dangerous. Britain is not less attractive than two years ago, when no one was mentioning this. If you apply the same investment and training, you will come to closer productivity levels."

Another speaker, praising the co-operation of the German Government and companies in developing vocational training, added: "It's not only Made in Germany but also Trained in Germany." Dr Bernd Astenstaedt, the director of the German Industrial Forum, said: "It is a matter of environment and tools. If the environment were the same and the tools were the same, Britain and Germany would have the same productivity levels. But the lack of investment in a number of British companies means productivity is perhaps not as high as one would expect in Germany."

Raising British productivity required, then, a mixture of ingredi-



Longbridge's Rover plant: productivity has been much discussed

ents: well-placed investment, sensitive management, co-operative unions, first-class training and, as Dr Hasselkus pointed out, lifting the social standing of engineers.

Ulrich Hoppe, the director-general of the German-British Chamber of Industry and Commerce, emphasised that Britain's higher staff turnover was a problem. "In Germany people stay longer with one company, so there is an incentive for investment as a company can recoup its investment," he said. "There's a whole difference in philosophy in Britain."

Cleaning up in the white goods market

Quality is the key to attracting British consumers, says Sue Spenceley Burch

At a time of huge competition in the white goods market, Miele, the UK subsidiary of the German parent company, achieved a record turnover of £45 million, a growth of 42 per cent.

German companies such as Miele are renowned for quality goods. But how do they maintain sales in such a competitive market? In the ten years since its UK chief executive, Michael Jeanes, joined the company, increasing globalisation has brought huge competition, particularly from the Far East, and the UK economy has been on a rollercoaster ride, with high mortgage rates, the pound entering and then leaving the exchange-rate mechanism, the Gulf war, two general elections and VAT rising to 17.5 per cent.

Yet Miele has grown consistently throughout, and forecasts UK sales of £49 million for 1998, an overall increase of £22 million in five years. Asked for the reasons behind this success, Mr Jeanes describes Miele as the Mercedes-Benz of the white goods market — a position, he says, increasingly appreciated by British consumers. He adds: "There is a growing realisation that it makes sense to buy quality goods that are reliable, economical and built to last."

Much of this enthusiasm can also be attributed to Miele's environmental record. "On the Continent," Mr Jeanes says, "white goods all have energy labels. The company invests in research and development designed to make its machines more 'environmentally friendly'. They now use less water and electricity, and any plastic parts are labelled so that they can be recycled. Mr Jeanes believes that, though environmental issues are now a low priority for

most UK consumers, they will become increasingly important.

When the founders produced their first washing machine in 1901, they inscribed the slogan Immer Besser ("Forever better") on the lid. They believed that would be unethical to sell machines that would last only a few years. Miele's washing machines are built to last at least 10 years.

Miele employs 255 staff in the UK, mainly in sales, marketing and distribution. Worldwide, the company has a remarkably low staff turnover, and the UK's no exception, where more than half of the current staff have been with the company five years or more, and more than third for ten years or more. Mr Jeanes ascribes this to the fact that Miele is still a family business, and that it treats its staff as part of the family.

Miele products are distributed through independent white goods retailers and department stores. Mr Jeanes says: "These retailers specialise in explaining the features." Miele products are also now available in "multiple" stores such as Currys and Comet.

"We don't go into every multiple store," says Mr Jeanes. "We select those in the right location that have space for a reasonable range. We train the store staff as we do the independents. Since we have been in the multiples, awareness has increased and business in the independents and department stores has also grown."

Next year Miele will attack Dyson's leading position in the vacuum cleaner market, with a new product specifically designed to steal a chunk of the British market for upright cleaners — they are almost unheard of anywhere else.

ROUND TAFEL

□ A dinner organised by Mercedes-Benz Finance and *The Times*, at the Café Royal, discussed how the two countries could bridge the business-culture gap. At left is Patience Wheatcroft, *The Times* Business Editor, with Gebhardt von Moltke, the German Ambassador, and Richard Whitton, Mercedes-Benz Finance chief executive at right some of the German business leaders who took part.



It doesn't just keep your engine running. It also helps drive the economy

Stop-Go economics will become just a thing of the past, if you take the example of our Cardiff factory. By April 1998, production of alternators had reached a staggering 20 million.

More importantly, over 80% of our 1997 production was exported. Of course, none of this would have been achieved without major investment in training and education.

The Bosch Cardiff factory is one of the world's most modern industrial complexes which has achieved award-winning recognition throughout the automotive industry.

Back in 1919, Robert Bosch said: "I could never bear to think that someone could test one of my products and prove that my work was somehow inferior." What was our guiding principle then is our guiding principle today.

Bosch. We bring innovation



M-B Finance targets lead

It was no accident that Mercedes-Benz Finance chose to locate its West European operation at Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire. Britain has the most developed financial services sector in Europe.

More than 20 German financial banks and insurance companies — including Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank which took over Kleinwort Benson and the insurance group Allianz (which owns Cornhill Insurance) — are active in the UK.

Alexander Weissleder, the managing director of Mercedes-Benz Finance, says: "In terms of activity, the UK accounts for 40 per cent of the vehicle leasing in Western Europe and is the third-biggest market in the world after the US and Germany."

Leasing and hire-purchase are big contributors to sales. Twenty-six per cent of all Mercedes vehicles sales in Britain are arranged through Mercedes-Benz Finance. As a result, we prefer to buy now and pay later, a trend reinforced by the buying muscle of corporate fleets and commercial vehicle and coach operators.

Since setting up Mercedes-Benz Finance in 1959, Herr Weissleder has watched the



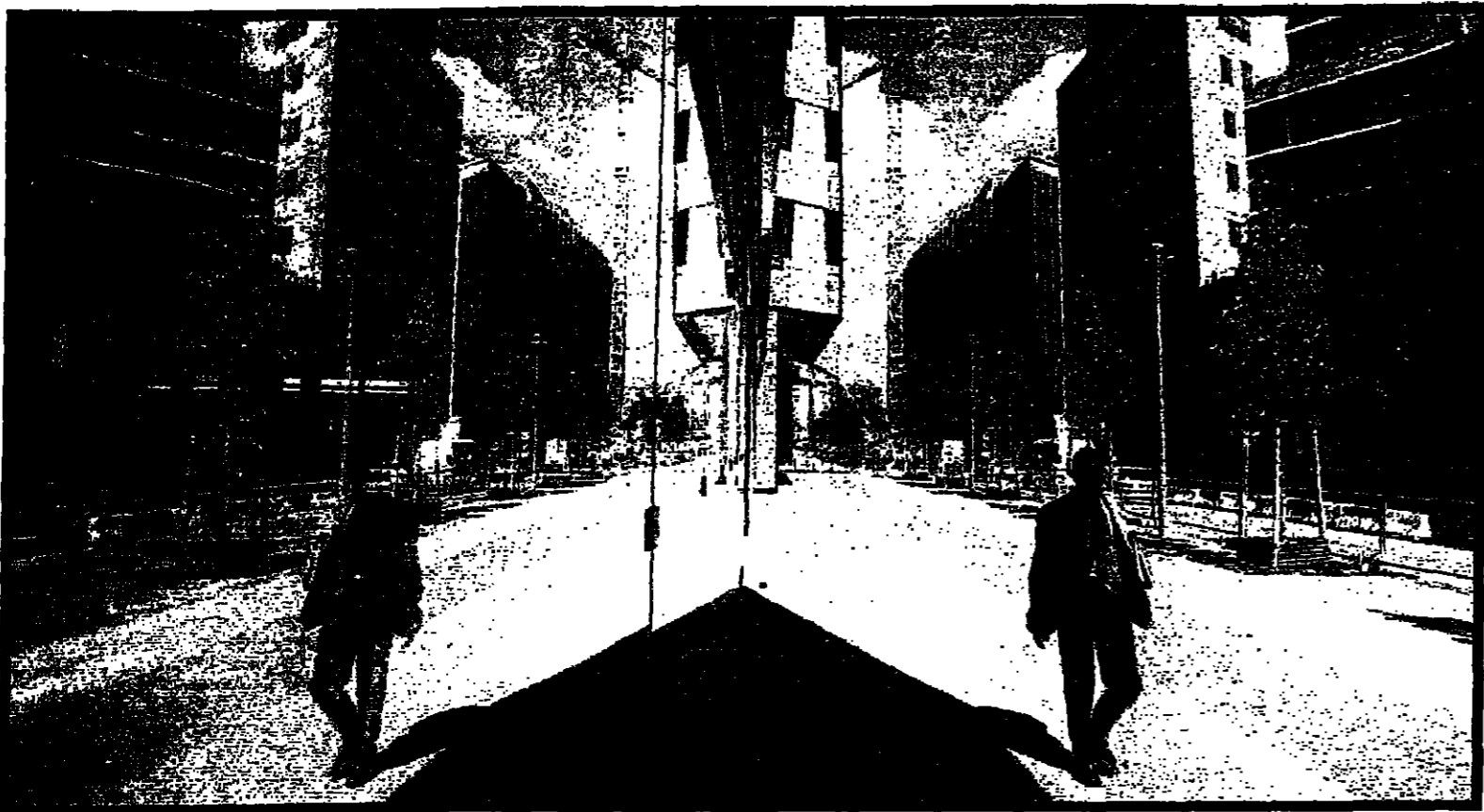
Weissleder: quality service

Cap down on business overheads. We fly cheaper to Germany.

City	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
London	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Manchester	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Birmingham	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Cardiff	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Edinburgh	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Lisbon	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Madrid	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Paris	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Rome	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Stockholm	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200
Zurich	£120	£140	£160	£180	£200

هكذا من الأصل

GERMANY



Stylish new buildings are mirrored in a glass façade at the Potsdamer Platz in Berlin. During the Cold War, the area was a no man's land

British know-how and German energy put a new factory on the map

East Germany and plasterboard are not exactly words that conjure up the notion of business success. Yet in a field that used to belong to a state-run collective farm on the outskirts of Berlin, the combination is proving virtually unbeatable.

Four years ago the British building materials giant, BPB, and its newly acquired German subsidiary, Rigips, decided it was essential for the company to gain a foothold in the new markets that were emerging in east Germany and neighbouring Poland.

After negotiating with the state of Brandenburg, the company invested nearly £45 million in the construction of a green field plasterboard manufacturing site at Brieselang close to Berlin.

The factory was built in a record 16 months and currently rates as the largest and most modern of its kind in Europe.

The investment was more than just a recipe for moderate growth. "The developments on the German market are beyond our wildest expectations," admits Jean Pierre Cluny, a member of the BPB board.

"This is partly as a result of German reunification but also because of our own initiative in supporting a product which has proved itself on every important industrial market."

In east Germany, a region that has been going through a huge reconstruction programme since the collapse of the postwar communist regime, BPB discovered a ready-made market for its plasterboard products.

Not only were thousands of buildings being renovated but plasterboard had barely established itself as a building material as it had already done so in the west.

Another key factor made the idea of setting up a plant at Brieselang worthwhile from an environmental as well as an economic stand-

A UK company's initiative in the east has made the operation the largest of its kind on the Continent

point. Traditionally, eastern Germany has relied heavily on lignite as an energy source. During the Communist era, it was smoke from lignite-burning power stations that was one of the region's chief sources of atmospheric pollution.

After unification, one of the first actions of the federal Government was to equip all of east Germany's lignite-fuelled power plants with filters. One of the by-products of the initiative has been an unlimited supply of gypsum which is extracted by the filters from lignite smoke.

As gypsum is the chief component in plasterboard, BPB found itself with a never-ending supply of high-quality raw material on its doorstep.

construction workers how to use plasterboard as a building material.

Klaus Klobes, the strategic marketing expert for the concern, says demand for BPB products is unlikely to fall off after the current building boom in east Germany is over.

He says: "Our research shows that there is likely to be a growth in demand for the material in the east because it will be used increasingly in renovation work."

At the same time, the group has already started to make inroads into the Polish market. The Brieselang plant currently exports some 20 per cent of its output to Germany's eastern neighbour and has plans to open a Polish plant as soon as demand increases.

Yet when touring the Brieselang plant, the visitor is immediately struck by the absence of people. Despite its massive production rate, Brieselang employs only 139 workers who operate round the clock in eight-hour shifts.

Because of the region's high unemployment rate, BPB had no difficulty in finding and recruiting trained engineers to work at the factory and wage levels are only 80 per cent of those in western Germany.

In many respects BPB's east German venture epitomises what is happening elsewhere on the region's industrial front. Large companies can and do make a killing by being given a relatively free hand to set up highly automated industries of the future.

Without doubt it is industries such as these that are contributing to east Germany's gradual economic upturn. But for Germany's politicians and four million-plus jobless, the fact that, comparatively, they employ very few people will remain a problem.

ANTHONY GRANT

Openings beckon in east

East Germany has paid a tough price for unification but its economy is now on the up, says Anthony Grant

In the weeks that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany's unification Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, insisted that East Germany would turn into a "blossoming landscape" just as soon as the rundown communist east of the country was joined with its prosperous western neighbour.

In the eight years since German unification, Herr Kohl has had to eat his words on more than one occasion. Many now argue that the inaccuracy of this single remark drove his ruling Christian Democratic Party from government in last September's general election.

To outsiders, eastern Germany appears more like an economic wasteland than a landscape in bloom. Unemployment in the whole of Germany stands at four million — the highest level reached since the 1930s. Eastern Germany bears the brunt of the problem: joblessness affects about

20 per cent of those of working age. High labour costs, bureaucracy, the reluctance of German banks to provide start-up capital and union insistence on wage parity with west German workers are just some of the reasons commonly cited for the region's apparent economic malaise.

Yet the impression is misleading because, paradoxically, Herr Kohl's promise is coming true: in more than a few senses, east Germany has started to outstrip the western region as a region worthy of foreign investment.

"An increasing number of businessmen, union leaders and Government officials in the east have realised that racing after the west German model is racing into a blind alley of uncompetitiveness," says Hans Christoph von

Rohr, head of Germany's Industrial Investment Council (IIC), a government agency with the specific task of promoting investment in the east.

In the two years that the agency has been in existence, the IIC has managed to secure more than 1 billion marks (about £357 million) worth of new business for the region and, though he is reluctant to talk about the details, Herr von Rohr says that the outlook could hardly be better.

To find out what potential investors really thought about eastern Germany, the IIC asked McKinsey to poll 500 business leaders. The results were surprising: concern about costs came only third on the list of investors' worries. Fear about inflexibility came

mainder, the need to stay competitive means that they now almost universally work out wage and working agreements independently. That makes the east a better place to invest.

Pressure to create jobs has also obliged local authorities to jettison time-consuming practices that only five years ago made obtaining permission to start a business a bureaucratic ordeal. Though east Germany may not yet have achieved American standards, getting a business permit now takes roughly three weeks as opposed to three months. At the same time, German banks have drawn on the experience of their Anglo-Saxon counterparts to ease their previously restrictive lending policies.

Herr von Rohr says: "Over the past three years, we have come about 80 per cent of the way towards the banking practices of the United Kingdom."

top of the list, followed by environmental liabilities.

Herr von Rohr says it is not difficult to persuade investors that most of these concerns are groundless. While environmental liabilities are taken care of by the Government, east Germany — unlike the west — is proving to be a highly flexible and comparatively low-cost environment in which to start a business.

Seventy-five per cent of wage deals in the east are agreed outside union-management negotiated collective bargaining system. Not only are they 25 to 30 per cent lower than their western counterparts, they are more flexible.

"It is only the very large concerns that have parent companies in the west that still stick to the collective system," Herr von Rohr says. "For the re-

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

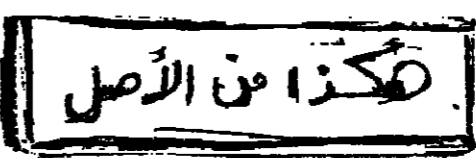


Table with 11 columns: HOME, AWAY, W, D, L, F, A, W, D, L, F, A. Contains numerical data for various teams.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing alcoholic beverage stocks like Guinness, Carling, etc.

BANKS

Table listing bank stocks like Anglo Irish, Bank of Ireland, etc.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing brewery and pub stocks like Harpur Lowry, etc.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing building materials stocks like Carlin, etc.

CHEMICALS

Table listing chemical stocks like Borealis, etc.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing construction stocks like Carrigrohane, etc.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing diversified industrial stocks like Aer Lingus, etc.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing electricity stocks like Bord Ghas Do, etc.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing electronic and electrical stocks like Intel, etc.

ENGINEERING

Table listing engineering stocks like BHP, etc.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing construction stocks like Carrigrohane, etc.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing distributor stocks like Carling, etc.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing food manufacturer stocks like Unilever, etc.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing healthcare stocks like Glaxo, etc.

HOUSEHOLD GD'S & TEXT

Table listing household goods and textile stocks like Asda, etc.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance stocks like AIG, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trust stocks like Fidelity, etc.

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table listing engineering vehicle stocks like Ford, etc.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days' close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Main table of stock prices and changes across various sectors.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing British fund prices and performance.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing short-term bond yields.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing long-term bond yields.

UNDATED

Table listing undated bond yields.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing medium-term bond yields.

INDEX-Linked on projected inflation of 4%

Table listing index-linked bond yields.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing printing and paper stocks like Newsprint, etc.

PROPERTY

Table listing property stocks like Eircom, etc.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing telecommunications stocks like Eircom, etc.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport stocks like Aer Lingus, etc.

WATER

Table listing water utility stocks like Eircom, etc.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing retail and food stocks like Asda, etc.

Advertisement: Before you do business with anyone else, it pays to do business with us. Includes logo for EULER TRADE INDEMNITY.

Advertisement: Nationwide First Division. Includes logo and contact information.

Advertisement: Carling. Includes logo and text.

Advertisement: Various financial services and products.

Advertisement: Various financial services and products.

Advertisement: Various financial services and products.

THE FACTS

ALLIED DOMEQ is a drinks producer and food and drink retailer that employs 50,000 people worldwide. In the latest financial year to August 31 turnover was £4.3 billion and pre-tax profits £615 million, with about three-fifths from spirits and wine and the balance from retail.

THE BOARD

Sir Christopher Hogg, 62, non-executive chairman, serves the same function at Reuters. He is a non-executive director of Smithline Bechem.

Tony Hales, chief executive, 50, is also a non-executive director of Midland Bank and Aston Villa.

Stephen Alexander, 42, is chief executive of Allied Domecq Retailing and a non-executive director of Devo International.

George McCarthy, 61, is president, the Americas, at Allied Domecq Spirits & Wine.

Ramon Mora-Figueroa, 64, became chief executive of Pedro Domecq in 1978 and a director of Allied Domecq on the 1994 merger.

David Scotland, 50, is president, Europe, of the spirits and wine side and a non-executive director of Thomson Travel Group.

Tony Trigg, 58, joined in 1965. He retired as finance director at the annual meeting in January.

His replacement, Philip Bowman, 45, joins today. He is a former finance director of Bass and is chairman of Liberty and a non-executive at BSH&B.

Of the non executives, Nigel Stapleton, 52, is co-chief executive of Reed Elsevier and a non-executive director at GEC. Donald Brydon, 53, is chairman and chief executive of AXA Investment Managers.

Sir Ross Buckland is chief executive of Unigate and a director of RUB Mining.

Peter Jacobs, 55, retired as chief executive of BUPA at the end of July.

David Malpas is a non-executive of Liberty and chairman of Dresdner Income Growth Investment Trust.

Few corporations of any great age would willingly create themselves afresh in the form in which they exist today. Take Allied Domecq, a company that in its 37-year history has taken in Babydam, Tetley tea and Ind Coope beer, all now gone. No master strategist would construct a business that combined the second biggest wine and spirits producer, a chain of about 3,500 pubs in the UK and just short of 10,000 ice cream parlours or doughnut sellers scattered around the world. Plus a half-share in a Spanish baker, a quarter of the Britvic soft drinks operation and half of the UK high street's biggest off-licence chain.

A tendency towards spectacular bad luck and a good ten years of conspicuous stock market underperformance — the shares are not much improved on their level a decade ago — makes it clear why investors have been looking for significant change at the company. So far most change has been deferred.

First, the bad luck. In March 1991 Allied-Lyons, as it then was, announced that abnormal foreign exchange transactions would cost £150 million and the job of the finance director, Clifford Hatch.

In 1993 the company put its UK brewing operations into a joint venture with Carlsberg. It was branded as "probably the best merger in the world", in imitation of the Danish brewer's advertising slogan. The venture was a disaster, coinciding with a downturn in the brewing market generally. Within three years Allied had pulled out of brewing entirely.

In 1994 the company made its boldest move since the purchase in 1987 of a half-share in the Canadian spirits business Hiram Walker, a majority holding in Pedro Domecq, a Spanish drinks group with a big share of the fast-growing Mexican market, emphasising its commitment to the business with a name change.

The very day before the deal was to be announced the Mexican Prime Minister was assassinated. The Mexican economy suffered and the peso collapsed. Small wonder that Allied acquired a reputation for being accident-prone. Since then the company has laboured in the shadow of Grand Metropolitan, the biggest drinks business in the world, a shadow made much larger by last year's merger between GrandMet and Guinness to create Diageo.

CORPORATE PROFILE: Allied Domecq



ALLIED DOMEQ

Marked for a merger: the creation of Diageo has put pressure on Allied to consider making a similar marriage. Clockwise from top centre, Allied's core drinks brands; its board includes Tony Hales, chief executive; Philip Bowman; Ramon Mora-Figueroa; Tony Trigg; and Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman

Allied has four core drinks brands, Kahlua coffee liqueur, Sauza Tequila, Beefeater Gin and Ballantine's whisky. Each are the second biggest of their kind, globally, in each case the market leader is owned by Diageo.

This is not a disastrous state of affairs, and Diageo is far more exposed to any downturn in Asian Pacific markets, drawing 9 per cent of its profits from this area according to the latest published figures, against Allied's figure of less than 5 per cent.

But in the world drinks market size is all. The merger that created Diageo has put pressure on Allied to rush into a similar marriage. The name mentioned most often is Seagram. The problem with other potential suitors is that they tend to be family-owned or family-dominated concerns, such as Bacardi, Remy Cointreau or Pernod Ricard. Seagram is 30 per cent

owned by the Bronfman family, and their control probably goes deeper still. The group has also been concentrating on its entertainment activities, the Hollywood studio Universal and the Dutch music group PolyGram, which now provide 70 per cent of profits.

For the purposes of comparison, Diageo produces about 100 million cases a year. Allied and Seagram between them, and they are of a size in terms of production and revenues even if Allied is slightly ahead, would produce 90 million.

Furthermore, in terms of brands owned Seagram's biggest is the Scotch Chivas Regal — of geographical territories covered and of cost savings available, Seagram is easily the best fit.

Tony Hales, Allied's chief executive, will not be drawn on the Seagram rumours. "We have never said that we are or we aren't talking to anybody in particular," he says. "We have had discussions with all the major drinks companies to see if there's any basis for co-operation and remain open to do so in the future." He is determined to do this at his own pace. "I don't think we feel under pressure. What we see is our business going well. We must maintain the momentum behind that and not be distracted."

Observers say a full merger is not on the cards. It is not clear which would be in control, given their similar sizes, and Allied has learnt from Carlsberg-Tetley to beware of 50-50 "partnerships". Because Seagram has such a strong

profits stream from entertainment, it would be in a strong position in any alliance.

More likely is some sort of global distribution deal where both sets of drinks brands are merged and sold through the same channels, with clear cost savings as a result.

Paradoxically, such a deal would probably run into greater problems with the various international competition authorities than a straight merger. In any event, observers do not expect action immediately, but they do see a decision within two to three years.

Tied in with this is the second strategic move the market has been expecting, the merger of the drinks business from the retail operations, the pubs, the off-licences, the ice cream and the doughnuts.

When Sir Christopher Hogg was appointed chairman in April 1996 this was thought to be his immediate plan. He had already achieved the trick

at Courtaulds. Hogg has always insisted that Allied would take a "pragmatic" view, saying it would take place if it was in the interests of shareholders. Hales concedes that a merger has been looked at and has even been costed, but believes the time is not right. Traditionally such demerger have made sense when there is a sharp difference between the value put by the stock market on each side of the business.

"There isn't a price differential of any significance — this isn't an ICI-Zeneca," says Hales.

In July Allied bought out the 49 per cent minority formerly owned by Guinness in Cantrell & Cochrane, an Irish drinks distributor, and immediately appointed merchant banks to arrange a sale. This would bring in something in the order of £650 million, and would mean Allied, which is keen to maintain a strict ratio between the group's value and its debt, would have spare cash. The obvious solution would be a big acquisition or small infills, little-known brands that are strong in their own geographical markets.

But one other solution to the Cantrell & Cochrane "problem" has occurred to some market watchers. This is to return the cash to shareholders. Hales will not be drawn on this, preferring to dwell upon the progress signalled in the last set of results, which saw volumes up 2 per cent overall, those of Allied's key brands up 6 per cent and productivity improved by 10 per cent.

But the return of some cash would be seen as a genuine benefit to investors who have had reason to regret their investment. It could also be seen as the precursor to the further benefits that might flow from a worldwide drinks deal and an eventual demerger.

MARTIN WALLER

OUR VERDICT

Table with 4 columns: Metric, Value, and Description. Metrics include Ethical expression, Far-cast quotient, Financial record, Share performance, Attitude to staff, Strength of brand, Innovation, Annual report, City star rating, Future prospects, and Total score.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET table with multiple columns for stock prices, changes, and other financial data.

Advertisement for British Airways featuring the slogan 'You no longer have to cram everything into a short working day.' and flight information to Düsseldorf.

Stevens builds unlikely lead

Cold feet, Cold War, warm congratulations

Cold Feet (ITV, Sunday) must be one of the cleverest confections ever to appear on the sweet-trolley of contemporary television.

The first two episodes were criticised as being too glib, which was true. No amount of sly winks or salacious lemon zest can hide a heart of syrup.

(David and Karen), post-natal loss of zing (Pete and Jenny) and non-specific performance paranoia (Adam and Rachel).

Driven to despair by his impotence, David visits a prostitute whose number he finds in a phone-box.

Each mistakenly believing the other is bored in bed, as a result of

some nicely turned farce plotting. Adam and Rachel resort to wearing revealing teddies and reading a manual called Fantastic Sex.

His results in a decision to fulfil Rachel's fantasy by making love in the window of a charity shop to which Adam has obtained the key.

Cold Feet is one of those sweet products, which tries to fool you into thinking it isn't fattening when it is. Never mind. It is extremely funny, and all the better for the fact that, with a few exceptions, the jokes are left lying around, as if by accident.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

blems of the male ego, these turned out to have had a lot to do with the Cuban missile crisis, and the closest the world has got so far to annihilation.

On Saturday, however, the over-long series sprang terrifically to life. It was considerably boosted by

the quality of the talking heads. Not obscure, self-serving back-room apparatchiks this time, but Robert McNamara, the US Secretary of State, Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, relayed messages as Kennedy and Krushchev played nuclear poker, and above all, Fidel Castro himself, still angry, unrepentant, and slightly manic.

clare his revolution as socialist to get his meat ticket. Between them they humiliated Kennedy further by sneaking 43,000 Soviet troops and several batteries of nuclear missiles onto the island without the Americans noticing.

As the game of bluff and counter-bluff intensified, Kennedy and Krushchev began to develop advanced face-saving diplomacy in a new version of an ancient game, where the stakes were the survival of civilisation.

rines would probably have been destroyed by battlefield nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union should retaliate immediately with an annihilating strike. The final agreement was "disgraceful". His rage still burns bright, and one almost senses nostalgia for a brief moment when he held the centre of the world stage.

- 6.00am BBC Breakfast (39363)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (19437)
9.00 Killy (18121547)
9.40 Style Challenge (996498)
10.05 City Hospital (19091011)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (19851295)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher (9861672)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (9871059)
11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (19851294)
12.00 Pass the Buck (4409769)
12.25pm Going for a Song (4488276)
12.50 The Weather Show (1) (28817568)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (1) (28914)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (73824030)
1.40 Neighbours Arne vows to beat Amy at the 40-hour Fodrot (1) (67443547)
2.05 Ironside An attempt on a judge's life goes Mark food for thought (1) (9033837)
2.55 Wipeout; (1) Consuming Passions (2896030)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6552214)
3.45 Enchanted Lands (8045108) 3.55 Little Monsters (3117788) 4.00 Animal Magic (4214127) 4.15 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9734728) 4.40 Goodhouse (2827011) 5.00 Newsround (4065837) 5.10 Blue Peter (5371834)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (334276)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (951)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (363)
7.00 This is Your Life Michael Aspel surprises an unsuspecting guest with the big red book (1) (7479)
7.30 Here and Now Investigation into whether the law should be involved in sport following the recent decision to award a football player damages after his leg was broken in a match (1) (547)
8.00 EastEnders Louise's anger reaches boiling point (1) (6127)
8.30 Birds of a Feather The girls visit an antique market held in an old warehouse (1) (5634)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (3498)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly Gary staggers home from a residential creative writing course to find girlfriend Dorothy in bed with best mate Tony (1) (14150)
10.00 Panorama The anxiety of people affected by job cuts, and how public confidence has been undermined by global forces and allegedly ineffective economic policies (1) (455653)
10.40 They Think It's All Over (1) (878059)
11.10 On Side With Tim Henman (293295)
11.55 Chicago Hope Domestic disharmony afflicts the staff as John Sutton faces a programme to end the AIDS programme (1) (27479)
12.00am Weird Science The guys get the power to play with real magic (1) (4431517)
1.05 The Incredible Shrinking Woman (1981) Lily Tomlin stars as a housewife who experiences a strange reaction to domestic products. Comedy. With Charles Grodin and Ned Beatty. Directed by Joel Schumacher (1) (8593284)
2.25 Weather (5119401)
2.30 BBC News 24 (1752468)

- 7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show; Wiggy Park (5298108) 7.05 Teletubbies (2064050) 7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (2899198) 7.55 Blue Peter (5191479) 8.20 Robinson Sucree (9784924) 8.45 Penny Crayon (4599030) 8.55 Wiggy Park (5883031) 9.00 Daytime On Two; Job Bank (7056276) 9.10 Short Circuit (5474530) 9.30 Writing and Pictures (8048769) 9.45 Storytime (8036924) 10.00 Teletubbies (95856) 10.30 Words and Pictures (1367450) 10.45 Watch (3682905) 11.00 Look and Read (9363092) 11.20 Zig Zag (4742295) 11.40 Landmarks (1711082) 12.05pm History File (4499392) 12.30 Working Lunch (68856) 1.00 Penny Crayon (98754585)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2244672)
2.10 Match of the Day Greats Manchester Utd v Chelsea in March 1965 (18189672)
2.40 News; Weather (1) (7615450)
2.45 On Cue with Steve Davis (5534547)
3.25 News; Weather (1) (7318127)
3.30 Gardeners' World Old English roses and pond planting (1) (789)
4.00 Change That (1) (3185160)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (3195547)
4.55 Lower Young fathers describe their experiences of parenthood (1) (5953721)
5.30 Cricket: The Ashes Australia v England Highlights (740)
6.00 The Simpsons Apu's misconduct at the Kwik-E-Mart results in Homer being hospitalised (1) (649011)
6.25 Space 1999 (1) (693496)
7.15 Hit, Miss or Maybe (1) (335276)
7.30 CRIOCE Sound Stories A film following the musical commemoration of the bicentenary of the 1798 Rebellion (1) (189)
8.00 The Essential Guide to Rocks Ray Marks explores volcanic remains in the Lake District (1) (4789)
1.10 Food and Drink Christmas baked Alaska, chicken stir-fry and a modern St Andrew's Day meal (1) (3276)
9.00 The Cops Meet and Kick Bungle an investigation (1) (370597)
9.50 Ads Infirmity (1) (462450)
10.00 Big Train Comic sketches (1) (34672)
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11.15 On Air: The Truth About TV New series. David Aaronovitch investigates fly-on-the-wall documentaries (1/3) (574672)
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- 5.30am ITN Morning News (76382)
6.00 GMTV (8570059)
9.25 Trisha (1) (1521936)
10.15 This Morning (1) (437566)
12.15pm ITN News; Weather (1) (3233363)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (1) (56382)
1.00 WEST: Wild Tracks Journalist Trevor Fishwick's trek through Wales (20030)
1.00 WALES: Yan Can Cook (20030)
1.30 Home and Away (1) (55653)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (1443635)
2.40 WEST: Yan Can Cook: The Best of China The Shaoging region (1) (2892214)
2.40 WALES: The Pulse (1) (2892214)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (1) (7317498)
3.15 ITN News (1) (7316769)
3.20 CITY: Wladzora (2338301) 3.35 Tich (7781879) 3.50 Sooty and Co (2976905) 4.15 Art Attack (451566) 4.45 Sabrina the Teenage Witch (7326479)
5.10 WEST: Animal Country Desmond Morris and Sarah Kennedy go bird-watching at Slimbridge (1) (4265740)
5.10 WALES: Moneybags (1) (4265740)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) (240498)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (643837)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (1) (640550)
6.25 HTV Weather (251905)
6.30 The West Tonight (1) (288)
6.50 HTV Crimestoppers (697943)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune With John Leslie and Jerry Powell (1) (2547)
7.30 Coronation Street Deirdre is dismayed to meet Jackie's son (1) (943)
8.00 World in Action Investigation into congestion in Britain's skies (1) (1295)
8.30 Great Escapes On-the-spot footage of real-life escapades (7/9) (1) (9030)
9.00 Vice: The Sex Trade The final programme in the series uses hidden-camera footage to reveal the full extent of prostitution in London (3/9) (1) (4479)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (1) (88498)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (1) (903585)
10.40 Veronica's Closet Ronnie auditions for a chorus role (1) (863127)
11.10 Dharma and Greg The couple spice up their love life (1) (359740)
11.40 Stuff the Week Comic review of the week's news (764818)
12.10am Short Story Cinema (1) (3155159)
12.40 Football Extra (3142449)
1.40 World Football (1) (1761081)
2.10 Club@vision (1) (3448772)
2.50 Trisha (1) (1) (9048772)
3.40 World in Action (1) (1) (99018284)
4.05 An Invitation to Remember Part one. Lancelotti (1) (87251081)
4.30 ITV Nightline (65015)
5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (85826)

- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (1) (8530924) 1.00-1.30 (20030) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (9307818) 2.10 Home and Away (1) (5252528) 2.40-3.10 High Road (1) (2892214) 3.15-3.20 Central News (1) (7316769) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4265740) 6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (1) (903585) 12.00am-12.45 Public Morals (5586994) 4.00 Central Jubilee '98 (1) (5735772) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (2651159)
As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Weather (1) (3233363) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (5548943) 1.00 High Road (1) (20030) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (9307818) 2.10 Home and Away (1) (5252528) 2.40-3.10 Make Yourself at Home (4/6) (1) (2892214) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (1) (7316769) 5.08 Birthday People (9515837) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1) (4265740) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (1) (64301) 10.30-10.45 Westcountry News; Weather (1) (903585) 12.10am-12.40 Public Morals (3155159)
As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (1) (3233363) 1.00-1.30 Shortland Street (20030) 2.35-3.10 Outlaw in (1) (1) (5541837) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away; (1) (1) (5541837) 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (1) (479) 6.30-7.00 Streetwise (3/8) (288) 10.30-10.45 Meridian News; Weather (1) (994375) 12.10am-12.40 Public Morals (3155159) 5.00-5.30 FreeScreen (1) (85826)
As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (9303924) 1.00-1.30 Split Second (20030) 2.35-3.10 Look and Cook (1) (5541837) 5.10-5.40 Shortland St 6.25-7.00 Nightline (1) (864059) 10.00 News (1) (903585) 10.40 Veronica's Closet (963127) 11.10-11.40 Veronica's Closet (1) (55740) 12.10am Dharma and Greg (1) (3155159)
Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (1) (6203964) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (9303924) 9.00 Yegolion: The English Programme (4494372) 9.25 Schools at Work (73072160) 9.30 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (65108382) 9.45 GNVCC: Cymraeg All Iath (65108387) 10.00 Deuparth Gwaith (37599568) 10.15 Off Limits (37599189) 10.30 Place and People (57937567) 11.00 Geography Junction (1) (1) (64791566) 11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (1) (64792295) 12.00pm Right to Reply (1) (6706916) 12.30 Sesame Street (1087382) 1.00 Planned Plant (8622301) 1.00 ABC (1) (1) (9074382) 1.15 Ding Dong (1) (60768837) 1.30 The Ocean World: John Stewenson (1) (10889583) 2.10 Wild Tales from National Geographic (1) (6359030) 3.00 Garden Doctors (6/11) (1) (6589018) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (4385301) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (43841106) 4.30 Rikid Lake (1) (4385301) 5.00 Planned Plant (6589030) 5.00 Rowen, Look, Look, Look (65841360) 5.15 Fife! (4489769) 5.30 Countdown (1) (43854672) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (1) (48587082) 6.10 Heno (1) (3122845) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (1) (6084663) 7.25 Prydain Wylfa: Dawny's Wilber; Newyddion (74989295) 7.50 John Alun (1) (65891547) 8.00 Newyddion (1) (6589332) 9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (1) (6470430) 9.30 Sgorio (1) (65090011) 10.35 Anatomy of Desire (3/4) (1) (40437214) 11.35 Driven (1) (83184479) 12.05am Roy Bremner: Who Else? (63174449) 12.35 Shellshock (1/3) (1) (48614623) 1.35 Dredded 4.00 Yegolion

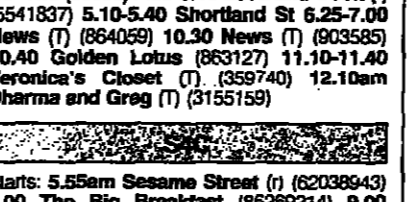
- 5.55am Sesame Street (3673127)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (25585)
9.00 Schools: The English Programme - Science Fiction (205417) 9.25 Schools at Work (5228301) 9.30 Geography Junction: The Rhone (9033837) 9.45 Book Box: Bill's New Frock (8021092) 10.00 Stage Two Science: Habitats (3663092) 10.15 Off Limits: Tell Me About It (6666943) 10.30 Place and People: Amazonia (9403924) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen: The Arts Card (6078301) 11.00 Rat-A-Tat-Tat (4733547) 11.15 The Mic: Let's Dance (4756498)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (1) (1) (2841)
12.00 Sesame Street (28011)
12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (1) (54924)
1.00 Judge Joe Brown (2872)
1.30 Sunny Spells (59919059)
1.35 Woman Obsessed (1959) A tough widow and her son struggle to maintain their farm in the face of natural disasters. With Susan Hayward. Directed by Henry Hathaway (1) (62678547)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Wade pottery (1) (837)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (672)
4.30 Countdown (1) (7329566)
4.55 Montel Williams's (1) (555189)
5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow A horse which refuses to be ridden (1) (108)
6.00 Roseanne David spends a night in Darlene's room (1) (721)
6.30 Hollyoaks: Jude's arrest leads to concern (1) (301)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (1) (427837)
7.50 The 1998 Turner Prize: Writing About Art A winner of the Writing About Art competition responds to Lucian Freud's painting with a Willie Old (1) (836127)
8.00 CHOICE Planet Ustinov The worthy actor visits Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand (2/4) (1) (5535)
9.00 CHOICE Witness the adoption picnic of South Mississippi, where prospective parents meet children who need families (1) (5721)
10.00 CHOICE Anatomy of Desire An examination of human sexual desire (3/4) (1) (772214)
11.05 Return of the Ba Ba Zee Introduction to the following programmes (871547)
11.06 Glamour Gitz The fortunes of those involved in the black sex industry in Britain and America (1/8301)
12.10am A Woman Scorned (7086130)
12.20 It's Different For Girls Love life dilemmas for a maoist (1) (9307994)
12.35 Gangstresses Poor black women involved in crime (313420)
1.35 Phat Nation Music requests (1760352)
2.05 The Dying of the Light Brian Patten attacks ageing in Britain (7748007)
2.15 Dispatches (1) (1) (89007)
3.15 In Quest (4/4) (1) (7865923)
4.00 Schools (1) (73130)

- 6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, Sport and Business (2271824)
7.00 WildWorld (1) (1) (6037301)
7.30 Millskate (1) (819063)
7.35 Wmzde's Houses (1) (5 News Update (1558837)
8.00 Havalakozzo (1) (2441479)
8.00 Dappledown Farm; 5 News Update (243450)
9.00 The Great Game (1) (1) (7360618)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (1) (416214)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (4656027)
10.20 Sunset Beach (1) (2974943)
11.10 Leesa (1) (6996108)
12.00 5 News at Noon (1) (2444566)
12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (7375634)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Stephanie is told she needs help (1) (6036672)
1.30 Sons and Daughters Gayle gets a job at a holiday farm; 5 News Update (737495)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (669818)
2.30 Good Afternoon (8004301)
3.30 Advice to the Lovelorn (TVM 1981) Chriss Leachman stars as a newspaper agony aunt who realises she needs help. Harry Falk directs (1) (6701419)
5.20 The Roseanne Show; 5 News Update (925899)
6.00 100 Per Cent (5197382)
6.30 Family Affairs Mel gets the cold shoulder from Josh (1) (5186334)
7.00 5 News; Weather (1) (6583634)
7.30 Watery World The myths surrounding sharks, (1) 5 News Update (154818)
8.00 Planet Ustinov: Australia, Hawaii and Jonhar Paddy sample fishing and geothermalism (5/8) (1) (5602382)
8.30 The Antiques Hunter Dave Dea has just bought a Jacobean manor house and asks David Dickinson to help him choose some period furniture. Last in series; (8/8) (1) 5 News Update (568189)
9.00 A Walk in the Clouds (1995) A disillusioned salesman, recently returned from the Second World War, bumps into a pregnant woman who is nervous about returning home to her strict parents' vineyard, so he agrees to pose as her husband. Romantic drama, with Keanu Reeves and Anthony Quinn. Directed by Alfonso Arau; (1) 5 News (18161585)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update (4887363)
10.55 Setba the Day (1986) Robin Williams plays a neurotic dentist who is forced to face his life crisis. Offbeat comedy based on a short story by Saul Bellow. Directed by Fidler Cooke (1) (15782924)
12.45am NFL American Football - Live New York Giants visits the San Francisco 49ers (12534826)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (1880361)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (7782130)



Jackie (Margy Clarke) introduces her son Tyrone (Alan Halsall) (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street Deirdre is dismayed to meet Jackie's son (1) (943)
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4.05 An Invitation to Remember Part one. Lancelotti (1) (87251081)
4.30 ITV Nightline (65015)
5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (85826)



Sylvia Sessions, head of Mississippi adoption programmes (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE Witness the adoption picnic of South Mississippi, where prospective parents meet children who need families (1) (5721)
10.00 CHOICE Anatomy of Desire An examination of human sexual desire (3/4) (1) (772214)
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4.00 Schools (1) (73130)



Alana Sanchez-Gijon and Keanu Reeves star (9pm)

9.00 A Walk in the Clouds (1995) A disillusioned salesman, recently returned from the Second World War, bumps into a pregnant woman who is nervous about returning home to her strict parents' vineyard, so he agrees to pose as her husband. Romantic drama, with Keanu Reeves and Anthony Quinn. Directed by Alfonso Arau; (1) 5 News (18161585)
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Bon Killers: Water Works 10.00 The Postmyns 11.00 Beyond the Clouds 12.00m Soccer 12.00m Soccer 12.30 All About Zany's Amazing Bazaar

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VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programmes. See the VIDEO Plus+ numbers for the relevant programmes into your video recorder for easy listing. For more details, call 0800 400 000 on 0540 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute at all times. VIDEO Plus+ is a trademark of Turner Broadcasting System, a division of Time Warner Entertainment Company L.P.

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BUSINESS

BULL RUN 48

Roger Bootle says he will give it a miss



RESULTS 48
Carlton counts launch cost of ONdigital

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30 1998

City expects Barclays to be bid target

By Alasdair Murray

MERGER frenzy is expected to grip the UK banking sector today as speculation grows that rival financial groups will seize a window of opportunity to strike while the board of Barclays is in disarray. Halifax, Abbey National, Prudential and several American and continental groups are all viewed as possible partners.

However, traders expect the shares to recover some of the lost ground today. Analysts predict that a bid approach may arrive in the next few weeks, before Barclays has time to assemble a new senior management and revise its corporate strategy.

Almost all the potential suitors for Barclays are either of a similar market size or smaller than the profitable UK bank, suggesting that a merger is a far more likely option than a hostile takeover bid.

Halifax and Prudential, both of which have been previously linked with Barclays, are still known to be looking for a partner. The City believes that a merger with Halifax would offer big scope for cutting costs by sunning the branch network and would also solve management problems at Barclays.

Bright eyes parts of GRE

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

INDEPENDENT Insurance, the small but highly regarded insurance group led by Michael Bright, may enter the bidding for part of Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurer that effectively put itself up for sale last week.

However, traders expect the shares to recover some of the lost ground today. Analysts predict that a bid approach may arrive in the next few weeks, before Barclays has time to assemble a new senior management and revise its corporate strategy.



Robert Hyde, left, and Ken Howard, who plan to produce a game a year, enjoy a round of Sophie's World

Songwriter looks for hit with game

ONE of Elvis Presley's songwriters and the man who published the Prince of Wales's watercolours make an unusual entrepreneurial team (Manus Costello writes).

Ken Howard and Robert Hyde have pooled their disparate skills to set up Sophie's World, a company that devises and writes boardgames for an older market. Their first game is based on Sophie's World, the novel, and it has already sold 75,000 copies in Germany and Italy since publication in October.

"We launched the game at the Frankfurt bookfair in October," Mr Hyde said. "The Germans are mad for all sorts of boardgames, and so we thought it was a good place to start. The response was hugely enthusiastic."

Deutsche to unveil Bankers takeover

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

DEUTSCHE BANK is expected to unveil the \$9.5 billion (£5.7 billion) takeover of Bankers Trust today after board meetings at both companies yesterday.

Bankers Trust shareholders are, however, still trying to spoil Deutsche's arrival in Wall Street's premier league. One group has filed a blocking lawsuit in New York, claiming the price offered by Deutsche is too low.

Another suit has been filed against Bankers Trust by former shareholders who sold out ahead of the takeover announcement. They claim that the board should have notified them of the talks earlier.

Pension funds could be forced to use votes

MINISTERS are to be asked to force pension fund trustees to declare a public policy on voting their shares after a new survey revealed that less than half of all shares are voted at companies' annual meetings (Graham Searjeant writes).

Card lender set to trump UK banks

By Gavin Lumsden

HIGH STREET banks are set to have their grip on the £22 billion credit card market loosened next month when BankOne, the leading US card lender, launches operations in the UK.

Following its merger with First Chicago Bank this year, BankOne has become the second-largest credit card lender in the US, with 43 million cards in issue and more than \$63 billion (£38 billion) of loans outstanding.

Its subsidiary, BankOne International, has built a headquarters in Cardiff and is planning a nationwide mailshot before Christmas. It has hired 100 people at its Cardiff Bay office but hopes to increase staff to 1,000 in the next few years.

The new competition has hit Barclaycard, the market leader, which has seen its share of borrowing slip from 35 per cent to 30 per cent. Christmas shoppers are forecast to spend a record £6.2 billion with credit cards in December.

ECB chief rules out European rate cuts

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

WIM DUISENBERG, President of the European Central Bank, yesterday ruled out an immediate cut in European interest rates and said that Britain's decision to stay out of the euro area is likely to damage UK industry.



Duisenberg: convergence aim

Mr Duisenberg insisted that the priority for the European Central Bank ahead of EMU remains convergence, and not rate cuts to ward off the impact of global financial turmoil. He pointed out that European rates are "substantially lower than in the US".

TM purchase of Martin creates 1,400 shop chain

By Robert Cole

A 1,400 strong chain of corner-shops is being created with the purchase of Martin, the newsagent, by the company that owns Fourbays convenience stores.

TM Group, which controls 640 Fourbays shops, is paying £75 million for Martin's 780 outlets. HSBC Private Equity and Electra Fleming, its leading shareholders, are providing the backing for the Martin acquisition.

The combined group will employ 13,000 people. James Lancaster, TM's chairman and chief executive, said there would be no net job losses. Hopes are that the new entity will benefit from having greater power in purchasing and will be able to save money by centralising distribution operations and information technology.

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